HeraldPOST

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

NATO Brigade bids bittersweet farewell Soldiers welcome new commander, prep for Sembach move

By Sgt. 1st Class John Wollaston U.S. ARMY NATO BRIGADE PAO

SCHWETZINGEN – On the grounds of Schwetzingen castle just outside Heidelberg, the U.S. Army NATO Brigade bid farewell to not only its commander for the past two years, Col. BJ Constantine, but to the Heidelberg area and Tompkins Barracks specifically in a combination change of command, change of responsibility and casing of the colors ceremony Friday.

"It seems like only yester-

day I stood in a ceremony on Tompkins Barracks to assume command of this brigade. In fact, the date was July 27, 2010," Constantine said during his farewell comments. "I am honored and humbled to have been associated with this fine organization and the Soldiers, civilian team members and family members that are the USANATO Brigade."

Also during his remarks, Constantine praised the Soldiers of the brigade for

see **NATO** page 14



Sgt. 1st Class John Wollaston

Command Sgt. Maj. Joanne M. Cox (left) and Col. Robert S. Larsen (right) case the colors of the U.S. Army NATO Brigade during a ceremony on the grounds of the Schwetzingen Castle Friday. The casing of the colors marks the official start of the brigade's move to Sembach Kaserne.

HP THURSDAY August 2, 2012

Speed Read

ANTI-TERRORISM MONTH

August is Anti-terrorism Awareness Month.
U.S. Army Europe officials urge community
members to "know their surroundings." 2

A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS



Many Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe graduates are heading off to college in the U.S. and facing several new changes. 6

BREAST-FEEDING FAIR

Mom2Mom of the Kaiserslautern Military Community will present a breast-feeding fair Saturday on Ramstein Air Base. 9

CROATIAN MEDICAL TRAINING

Baumholder's 557th Area Support Medical Company, 421st Multifunctional Medical Battalion, train at the Croatian Army Medical Training Center. 10



Defense Details

OLYMPIC CEREMONIES

U.S. service members were among more than 10,000 Olympians from around the world who marched into the Olympic Stadium in London during Friday's opening ceremony of the Olympic Games. Sixteen U.S. military athletes and four coaches are representing the United States in six different sporting venues: shooting, fencing, boxing, Greco-Roman wrestling, track and field and the modern pentathlon. The athletes marched into a new stadium in east London after more than two hours of music and production that showcased the heritage and transitions of Great Britain from a "green and pleasant land" through the industrial revolution to the digital era. One facet of the ceremony that intrigued local residents of London was the involvement of Queen Elizabeth in a production scene that featured actor Daniel Craig as James Bond. The legendary British agent entered Buckingham Palace to pick up Her Majesty and take her to the stadium via helicopter. British newspapers said it was the first acting scene for Queen Elizabeth in her 60-year reign as monarch. The media speculated that she may have been persuaded to participate by one of her favorite filmmakers, Danny Boyle

www.defense.gov

What's Inside

Transformation Update	'
Our Army	- 8
Dear Ms. Vicki	10
GET OUT!	1
Movies	1
Announcements	.1
Sports	.13

Sembach offers immigration services for community

By Rick Scavetta

USAG KAISERSLAUTERN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Troops driving to Frankfurt to sort out immigration issues for foreign family members might become a thing of the past, thanks to a new United States Citizenship and Immigration Services outreach effort.

Each month, a USCIS representative will be at Sembach Kaserne, a U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern installation, to accept immigration petitions on naturalization. Army and Air Force service members and civilians from the Kaiserslautern Military Community, plus those at U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder and Baden-Württemberg, are welcome to use the new service.

Applicants often fill out forms incorrectly or don't include supporting documents, which can cause delays, said Don Owens, a USCIS immigration information assistant, who see IMMIGRATION page 14

To the Finish



Kierra Ho

Members of the U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers push and pull a 350-kilogram hay wagon through the first sand obstacle during the annual Eppelheim fest July 21

Soldiers team up for annual race

By Kierra Ho

USAG BW PUBLIC AFFAIRS INTERN

Members of the U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers pushed and pulled a 350-kilogram hay wagon in a local contest that fostered camaraderie between the garrison, the city of Eppelheim and Italy July 21 in Eppelheim.

Garrison commander Col. Bryan DeCoster, Command Sgt. Maj. Annette Weber, local residents, BOSS president Spc. Katherine Glavaris and other volunteers cheered wildly as BOSS teams steered their wagons around an 850-meter race track in a friendly competition against an Italian team and German teams from local sports clubs.

see RACE page 14

COMMAND MESSAGE

Anti-terrorism Awareness Month kicks off across U.S. Army Europe

USAREUR Public Affairs

August is Anti-terrorism Awareness Month for the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Europe. During this time, USAREUR officials hope to raise awareness of the terrorist threat and increase vigilance among its service members, civilian employees and family members.

"Anti-terrorism simply describes our defensive measures intended to reduce the vulnerability of individuals and property to terrorist acts," said David Lemauk, chief of USAREUR's Anti-terrorism Division. "In reality, the mission is much more complex, as we continuously adjust our measures in response to changing terrorist threats and tactics."

The theme for the fourth quarter of this fiscal year is "Know Your Surroundings," which focuses on unit and individual awareness of the terrorist threat and security environment.

USAREUR provides techniques and training to personnel living in Europe, such as information on ways to avoid becoming a victim of terrorism, community vigilance programs including the iWatch program that helps commu-

nity members watch for and report suspicious activity and links to resources such as the U.S. State Department travel advisory website that informs the public of conditions across the globe that could place them in danger.

Community members in Heidelberg and Mannheim can also find safety tips for the whole family located on the U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg home page at www.bw.eur.army.mil/.

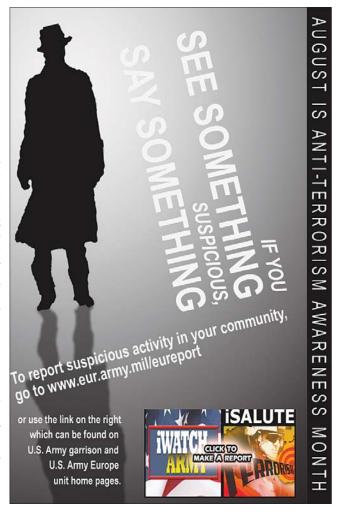
Information is located under the "Army Geared" section on the right side of the screen. Click on AT Awareness for more information.

Travelers can check current travel warnings, restrictions and information on the latest public demonstrations under the "Hot Topics" section of the site.

Officials continue to advise community members to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity online using the "iWATCH and iREPORT" link, also on the Garrison home page.

For additional antiterrorism questions or concerns, call the garrison AT office at DSN 373-7531. civ. 06221-17-7531

SOURCE: Philip Schultz, USAG BW Anti-terrorism Officer





DISCUSSION BOARD

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

"A new camera was recently installed on A6 toward Mannheim. This camera was placed after the 100 to 80 speed limit change due to road construction. Please be aware of other drivers potentially abruptly decreasing speed when they notice the camera."

— BWnow Administrator

"So the speed limit at the camera is 60 right? There is an

80 sign, then 60 *right* before the camera and then 80 right after the camera. Seems like quite a trap!"

– Grace Bernhardt, BWnow Facebook Fan

"lol, thank you for the heads up!"

— Michael P, BWnow Facebook Fan

"Gotta fund the bailouts somehow!"

Miki Tedesco, BWnow Facebook Fan

"How's your morning going so far BWnowers? Has the weekend "fever" hit you yet?"

BWnow Administrator

"My morning is HOT!"

Katy Garth, BWnow Facebook Fan

"Same here. Drinking plenty of ice water :)"
— BWnow Administrator

HP

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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. Only sports results from the weekend will be accepted until noon on Monday.



Patton Law Center

Each election season, the Army reminds Soldiers that there should be a distinction between their professional capacity and their personal activities. In general, Soldiers should not campaign during duty hours or while in uniform. While Soldiers are in uniform, they should consider themselves a representative of the United States Army.

What Soldiers can do:

- ◆Vote and encourage others to do so.
- Write letters to the editor as a private citizen and include a disclaimer that the views expressed are your
 personal opinion and not the official stance of the Army.
- Attend political functions out of uniform, including debates, rallies and conventions.

What Soldiers can't do:

- Don't solicit votes for a particular candidate or issue while on duty or in uniform.
- ◆Don't wear military uniforms at political events or fundraisers.
- Don't speak at a partisan political gathering while in uniform.
- Don't sell tickets to dinners or fundraisers while on duty or in uniform.
- Don't participate in radio, TV or other media discussions or groups as an advocate for or against a partisan political party, candidate or cause.
- ◆Don't conduct political opinion surveys or distribute political literature while on duty.
- ◆Don't allow use of photographs of Soldiers in uniform to be used in campaign media, including television commercials

Community invited to participate in Wounded Warrior Soldier Ride

By Staff Sgt. Brooks Fletcher
USAREUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Service members from the U.S. Army in Europe and partner nations, along with local community members, interested in supporting injured service members are invited to participate in Wounded Warrior Project's community ride at Lake Bostalsee, Nohfelden, Saturday.

The community ride is the culmination of the four-day WWP Soldier Ride event in which wounded warriors from the European theater participate in rides that allow them to continue to rebuild their confidence and strength in a supportive environment.

It also provides wounded warriors the opportunity to promote their positive message of recovery while encouraging community members to ride alongside, support from the sidelines or volunteer to assist with the event.

The Soldier Ride in Germany is supported by European Regional Medical Command's Warrior Transition BattalionEurope and aims to provide rehabilitative cycling opportunities to help our newest generation of wounded warriors from the U.S. and partner nations, restore their physical and emotional well-being.

Lake Bostalsee is about 20 miles east of Baumholder along Autobahn 62. Registration and packet pick-up starts at 8 a.m., followed by an opening ceremony at 9 a.m.

The ride begins at 9:30 a.m. with a choice of a five-mile route around the lake or a 15-mile route through the neighboring towns of Oberthal and Theley. Maps of the rides are available at the Wounded Warrior Project website. The ride will be followed by a closing ceremony and community picnic.

Event coordinators request that community members register online at http://www.wound-edwarriorproject.org/programs/soldier-ride/community-rides/germany.aspx.

This is designed to help coordinators determine the number of participants. Event is free of charge.

Rapid Trident strengthens stability, promotes partnerships

By Staff Sgt. Brooks Fletcher

USAREUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Rapid Trident, the multinational exercise designed to promote regional stability, strengthen international military partnerships and improve interoperability between participating nations, closed with a ceremony Friday.

It has been 17 years since the joint exercise Peace Shield was designated as Rapid Trident, a move made in conjunction with Ukraine joining the Partnership for Peace, a North Atlantic Treaty Organization program aimed at building partner capacity between NATO and European states.

Since then, U.S. Army Europe and Ukraine have worked together to ensure the exercise meets goals for their respective land forces and ties directly into strategic and national military goals and priorities.

Rapid Trident 2012 focuses on interoperability among U.S. and NATO forces, while supporting the Annual National Program designed to achieve Ukrainian land forces' interoperability with NATO.

"The basic difference between this exercise and last year's exercise is the scope," said Lt. Col. Brian Bowen, exercise planner with U.S. Army Europe G-3. "This year the United States is assisting Ukraine and its own program to evaluate their own joint rapid reaction."

While previous exercises have varied in training, the theme, has remained consistent throughout the exercises history: strengthening interoperability and building relationships.

The exercise, conducted near Yavoriv at the International Peacekeeping and Security Center, is designed to support multi-national training and exercises with regional and bi-lateral partners.

The IPSC hosted classroom academics, a multinational command post and a field training exercise, where participants and units engaged in one week of situational training exercises that focused on key tasks like counter improvised explosive devices, convoy and traffic operations, patrolling operations, as well as training with support assets including helicopters and mortars.

While this year's exercise provided a learning opportunity to U.S. Army ROTC cadets, as a part of the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency Program, it continued to provide a unique opportunity to a particular demographic of U.S. Soldiers, those of eastern European decent.

"It's an amazing opportunity. It's just incredible," said 1st Lt. Serguei Louchnikov, with 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment of the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from the California National Guard out of Los Angeles. "It is a beautiful place, with a fantastic facility and excellent staff. You couldn't ask for a better joint environment."

Louchnikov's participation in this year's event is no coincidence, as the California Guard and Ukraine are joined in the National Guard's State Partnership Program.

"One of the goals for me is to get some experience

at the staff levels, working with joint forces," Louchnikov, who is of Russian and Ukrainian descent said. "There may be things that we can adopt and incorporate into our operations," Louchnikov added.

Rapid Trident contributes to U.S. national security interests in Europe and provides partner nation forces combined training opportunities to enhance capabilities to conduct multinational operations.

^aTogether, in the spirit of friendship and partnership for peace, 16 countries worked together as one team to perform many tasks to improve interoperability, strengthen partnership and foster trust between our countries," said Exercise co-director Col. David Markowski from USAREUR.

Over the last three years, Rapid Trident has yielded a 1,300-participant average and is a part of U.S. European Command's Joint Training and Exercise Program.

In addition to the U.S. and Ukraine, other participants included: Austria, Azerbaijan, Denmark, Bulgaria, Canada, Germany, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Sweden.

"We have been planning for over a year to offer the best possible training for all who participate," said Markowski, who served alongside Ukrainian Army Gen. Maj. Veaceslav Nazarkin as exercise co-director. "Ukraine has set the highest of standards in support of our partner nations, setting the conditions for an excellent exercise."

Visit USAREUR's Flickr and Facebook pages for photos and information on Rapid Trident 2012.

transformation **UPDATE**

BWNow Social Media Site Transitions

USAG Baden-Württemberg will take yet another step in its transformation. We will transition from BWnow Pacebook page. The BWnow social media site to exclusively using our BWnow Facebook page. The BWnow social media site will be discontinued, due to personnel and budget constraints. BWnow was developed in 2009 prior to the rise in popularity of Facebook. The site has more than 2000 members that have come to trust BWnow as an up-to-date, quick and reliable means of information regarding anything important going on in the Baden-Württemberg garrison. In order to make the most efficient use of tight garrison resources, we will discontinue this service by Aug. 26 of this year. The garrison Public Affairs Office ensures that all the current, useful quality information found on BWnow, will also be available on the garrison's Facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/bwnow.

Frequently Asked Questions

Have a transformation-related question you'd like answered? E-mail usarmy.bademur.usag.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mlf. 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/news/ personnel.htm.

"What will happen to the students at Heidelberg High School? My son graduates in 2014. Do we know when HHS will close?" Heidelberg High School as we know it today on Mark Twain Village will close after the 2012-13 school year, but Department of Defense Dependents Schools may establish a combined high school and middle school on Patrick Henry Village for the 2013-14, school year if there are sufficient high school students remaining. Current projections of personnel remaining in the Heidelberg and Mannheim communities justify maintaining an elementary school, middle school and high school in Heidelberg through 2012-13. The determination of how the schools will be configured in Heidelberg on PHV for the 2013-14 school year will be based on the projected number of assigned personnel and school age children remaining. As we gain more fidelity on these projections, we will work closely with DoDDS to determine how assigned personnel will receive DoDDS services. If there are DoDDS on PHV for the 2013-14 school year, community members can anticipate that some schools will be combined (either elementary combined with middle school or middle school combined with high school) and curriculum, faculty and activities will be reduced given the much smaller population remaining in Heidelberg and Mannheim.

"With all of the closures going on in the Mannheim and Heidelberg areas, what are Soldiers supposed to do in regard to their equipment (helmets, sleep systems, etc.) and how long can Soldiers expect the local Central Issue Facilities to be here for them?"

The current plan is to keep the CIF on Spinelli Barracks in Mannheim open as long as possible to ensure continued support to the community and it is scheduled to remain open at least through June of 2013. The limiting factor will be employee availability. No CIFs will be closed without coordination and approval from U.S. Army Europe and the 21st Theater Sustainment Command.

Facilities Operations Changes Mannheim

ACS — The Army Community Service office located in Bldg. 246 on Sullivan Barracks is now closed.

UPDATED – Base Operations – The Mannheim Base Operations office has relocated from Bldg. 246 on Sullivan Barracks to Bldg. 1408 on Coleman Barracks, Room 101. For assistance, residents should call Gilbert Buster at DSN 382-4724, civ. 0162-272-8632.

BFV South Closure — Public access to Benjamin Franklin Village South is no longer available. The area and the access gate have been sealed off and the Exchange main store, gas station, food court and concessionaires are closed. Any items left on the installation have been impounded by the Military Police. Access to the area may only be arranged through the Provost Marshal Office at DSN 388-2222/2223, civ. 06221-678-2222/2223.

Bowling Center – The bowling center located on Sullivan Barracks is now closed.

Burger King — The Mannheim Burger King located on Sullivan Barracks is closed.

Child Development Center – The Child Development Center on Sullivan Barracks is closed.

Chapel – The chapel on Benjamin Franklin Village is closed. All on post religious services have been transferred to the Heidelberg community.

Coleman Clinics — The Coleman Troop Medical Clinic has ended full patient care, dental and pharmacy services. Dental services for the Mannheim-Coleman Soldier population are available at the Patrick Henry Village Dental Clinic in Heidelberg. Sick call is available until **Sept. 1.** Sick call sign-in hours at the Coleman TMC are 8-9:30 a.m. DSN 371-3130, civ. 06221-17-3130.

Commissary — Deli and bakery services are no longer available at the commissary. Sandwiches are still available in the grab 'n go section and customers can special order select items and purchase hot rotisserie chicken. The commissary operating hours are 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. The commissary is scheduled to close by Sept.1. DSN 385-3940, civ. 0621-728-3611.

Community Bank — The Community Bank on Sullivan Barracks is closed Mondays. It is open 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturday.

Community Center – The Mannheim community center in Bldg. 2011 in Grant Circle is closed.

Customs — The customs office on Sullivan Barracks is now closed.

Facility Closures — The Commissary, Community Bank, Service Credit Union, the Top Hat Club, Woods Field, Coleman Clinics, Fitness Center are scheduled to close no later than **Sept. 1.**

Postal Office Hours Change — Mannheim postal facilities have new operating hours. The finance window at Postal Service Center 418 on Coleman Barracks is now open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The community mail room is open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and closed Tuesdays and Thursdays. At Postal Service Center 437, finance is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. The community mail room is open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and closed Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Self - Help Store — The Mannheim Self - Help Store is closed.

Shuttle Bus – The community shuttle bus no longer stops at the Benjamin Franklin Village guest house, but a stop was added on Funari Barracks. The new schedule is available from any shuttle bus driver, at the Central Processing Facility in Heidelberg or by calling DSN 373-8350, civ. 06221-17-8350.

Sullivan Fitness Center – The Sullivan Fitness Center is scheduled to close by **Sept. 1**.

UPDATED – Sullivan Express Shoppette – The Sullivan Express shoppette will remain open until **Aug. 31**.

NEW – Tax Relief Office – The Tax Relief Office on Sullivan Barracks is closed. Please contact the Heidelberg office located in Bldg. 4507 on Patrick Henry Village for assistance. DSN 388-9586, civ. 06221-338-9586.

WIC Office – The Women, Infants and Children Overseas office further

reduced office hours due to transformation and reduced base population. The Mannheim office is open 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesdays and 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursdays.

Heidelberg

Airport Shuttle Buses — The free shuttle bus service for service members, Department of Defense civilians and their families departing Germany from Ramstein Air Base on the Patriot Express departs Heidelberg once a week from the Patrick Henry Village Guest House in Heidelberg. For details on the shuttle schedule, call U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Central Processing Facility, Room 180, Bldg. 3850, at the Heidelberg Shopping Center. DSN 370-7343/6711, civ. 06221-57-8399, usarmy.badenwur.usaq.mbx.cpf@mail.mil.

Audiology – Audiology services at the Heidelberg Health Center have been reduced due to limited staff. Medical technicians will still be able to provide screening and hearing conservation services. All other audiology services will be referred to host nation providers or Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

Chapels – All chapel services have transferred to Patrick Henry Village and Nachrichten Kaserne. For more information on new service times and locations, call DSN 373-6190, civ. 06221-17-6190.

UPDATED – Dental Clinic – The sick call and exam hours for the Patrick Henry Village Dental Clinic have changed to 7:30 -10:30 a.m. Monday-Friday. All dental care and dental records from the Nachrichten Kaserne Dental Clinic, except oral surgery and periodontal dental services, have been transferred to the PHV dental clinic. DSN 388-9500, civ. 06221-338-9500.

NEW — Dental Clinic Deactivation — Members of the United States Army Heidelberg Dental Activity will conduct a ceremony to welcome Lt. Col. Kyung Kim as the incoming commander of the new Heidelberg Dental Clinic Command, in an activation and appointment ceremony 3 p.m. Aug. 2 in front of the Patrick Henry Village Dental Clinic in Heidelberg (in the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the Patrick Henry Village movie theater). Immediately following the Heidelberg Medical Activity's deactivation ceremony 10 a.m. Aug. 3, members of the HDENTAC will honor Col. William Bachand, the outgoing and last commander of HDENTAC, during a relinquishment and deactivation ceremony on the Nachrichten Kaserne Parade Field 11 a.m. Aug. 3 (in the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the Wilson Theater on Nachrichten Kaserne). Current dental care services and appointment availability will remain in place for beneficiaries until further notice.

Health Center Shoppette — The Exchange Shoppette located on Nachrichten Kaserne is closed.

HMEDDAC Deactivation — The Heidelberg Medical Department Activity deactivation ceremony is scheduled for 10 a.m.

Aug. 3 on the helipad on Nachrichten Kaserne (or in the Wilson Theater in case of inclement weather). The Heidelberg Health Clinic will also have reduced hours Aug. 3 due to the Heidelberg Medical Department Activity deactivation ceremony that day on Nachrichten Kaserne. The deactivation will not affect future health care services or appointment availability for beneficiaries. The clinic will transition under Landstuhl Regional Medical Center for command and control functions previously provided by HMEDDAC until the clinic's projected closure in June 2013.

Optometry Clinic — The Heidelberg Health Center's optometry department has reduced care to provide services only for active duty military and their family members who are enrolled in TRICARE Prime. As a result, the optometry clinic will no longer provide care for dependents or Department of the Army and Department of Defense civilian employees and contractors. Optometry services for these beneficiaries can be obtained via host nation providers.

Heidelberg graduates prepare for college

By Margaret Clevenger

USAG BW SUMMER HIRE

Going to college can be a huge adjustment for any high school graduate, but moving from Europe to the United States for college is an even bigger transition.

Life in the States is no doubt different than life in Germany, and many of the 2012 Heidelberg High School Graduates will soon experience the difference first-hand. The language, shopping and cell phone usage are aspects of the two cultures that could not be more different. Despite these differences, simply being a military child separates this year's graduates from their future college peers.

Wayne Dawkins, a HHS 2012 graduate, will be attending Wingate University in Wingate, N.C., to study athletic training and join the school's track and field team.

Like many other Department of Defense Dependents Schools students, this will be his first time in the States in quite a while. His family has been stationed in Germany 8 years, although they visited the States on occasion. "When you live over here in Europe, you get to go [to the United States] like once every three years, so it's kind of rare," Dawkins explained. Dawkins has never even set foot on his future campus.

When asked if he was nervous about fitting in, Dawkins responded, "I think college is just a bigger version of a DoDDS shool because it's people from different places coming together."

Although Dawkins is not nervous, it is often said that DoDDS students connect better with individuals who are far from home as well. "I think he'll fit in better with the international students. I think he'll do well, but I'm quite sure he will get homesick, but that's normal," said his mother, Latisha Dawkins.

"I think they're more versatile and more adaptable, but I think that's more just the nature of being a DoDDS kid or a military kid," said Patricia Schlachter, Advanced Placement American History and European History teacher at Heidelberg High School and mother of Dariush Tehranfar, also a 2012 HHS graduate. Schlachter explained that military children help out



Margaret Cleven

Wayne Dawkins and his mother, Latisha Dawkins, browse through a magazine article about iPhones at the Patrick Henry Village Bookmark in Heidelberg.

with their siblings, make new friends at new schools every few years and often have different responsibilities than non-military children. "I think they have a very strong streak of independence and creativity. They have to." Schlachter added.

Schlachter has worked with DoDDS 24 years. From Osterholz to Mannheim to Heidelberg, Schlachter has watched her former pupils go off to college each year. This year she will send her own son, Dariush Tehranfar, to the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, S.D. "I find DoDDS students are generous in building friendships and making friends," Schlachter said, "but there are still challenges."

After arriving in the States, there will be some things to get used to again. "Stores in the states are just so massive, like Super Wal-Mart," Wayne Dawkins said. "They even have a grocery store in there. They have everything you need pretty much."

Teenagers in the States are also more dependent on cell phones than most DoDDS students. Dawkins admitted, "As it is now, I don't really keep my cell phone on me ... I don't know why. I heard it's like a survival tool over there so I guess I'm going to have to start paying more attention to it now," he said.

Even conversation is different for DoDDS Europe students. "It does get kind of weird like people in the States come up with new slogans like swag [swagger] and LOL [laugh out loud] and stuff like that and you'll be like, 'what does that mean?'"

Before a student goes back

to the States it's good to be prepared, explained Latisha Dawkins. "It's good to ask questions to find out everything you need to know, especially if this is your first child going to college," she said.

Parents should research health care, financial aid and scholarship information, passport expiration dates and other necessary documentation ahead of time."

Students should also try to communicate with their roommates before arriving, focus on packing essential items and consider purchasing others like bedding, schools supplies and extra toiletries Stateside. It may also be a good idea to prepare an organized binder with important documents to keep at home. This way, parents can simply open it and scan documents to send if necessary.

Schools often provide detailed packing lists and can help with any last minute questions. "I'd definitely start checking out what classes you want to take with registration ... When I went to school you had to go to a gigantic football stadium. Now it's all online or virtual," Schlachter said.

To prepare for his departure this month, Dawkins participated in the summer hire program at the Patrick Henry Village Library to earn money for school. He is also spending time with his friends, "trying to have these last memorable nights together before we go our separate ways," Dawkins said.

Schlachter is also spending some quality time together with hers son "doing fun stuff."

Beat the heat

USAG BW Safety Office



With the rising summer temperatures, safety officials are urging the importance of managing heat stress within the garrison's workforce.

Army in Europe Regulation 40-50-1, Heat-Injury Prevention Program, outlines measures supervisors

and individuals can take to reduce the heat stress on the workforce, monitor personnel for heat injury symptoms and implement preventive measures that ensure zero heat related injuries.

Supervisors can visit http://heat_index.tripod.com/ to estimate the heat index in the Heidelberg area. The Wet Bulb Globe Temperature uses direct sunlight, wind and humidity levels to calculate the index and therefore the announced outside heat index does not directly translate into the current indoor heat index of your location.

During the warmer temperatures, work and rest cycles and water intake must be managed by supervisors to ensure personnel safety and mission accomplishment. Heat injuries are 100% preventable with proper mitigation measures, personnel monitoring and simple hydration. For specific questions concerning heat stress, call the garrison safety office at DSN 373-5277, civ. 06221-17-5277.

Key points of heat injury prevention

- Persons who have suffered a heat-related injury in the past are more susceptible to future heat related injuries and therefore must be identified in advance and carefully monitored.
- Common symptoms include stomach cramps, lack of sweat, nausea, headache, confusion and slurring of speech.
- ◆ Caffeinated drinks (sodas and coffee) are diuretics and expedite the dehydration process; personnel must drink water.





- Connect with community members
- Discuss local issues
- Ask and answer questions
- Search for events
- Share photos and more!



Like us and join the discussion!



1st Lt. Jeremy Gilbert goes through the obstacle course during United States Army Europe's Best Junior Officer Competition in Grafenwöhr July 24.



Staff Sgt. Teddy Wade Soldiers fire their muskets during Twilight Tattoo at Whipple Field on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in Arlington, Va., July 25. The soldiers are assigned to the 3rd Infantry Regiment known as "The Old Guard."

around the world

For more Army news, visit www.army.mil



A paratrooper from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, searches for improvised explosive devices along Highway 1, July 23, in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan.



Croatian, U.S. Soldiers improve medical partnership

By Sgt. 1st Class Randall Jackson 30TH MEDCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS

POZEGA, Croatia – Four Soldiers from the 557th Area Support Medical Company, 421st Multifunctional Medical Battalion, from Baumholder, traveled to the Croatian Army Medical Training Center in Pozega, eastern Croatia, in June.

The training was part of Immediate Response 2012, a multinational training exercise involving more than 700 personnel from seven countries and is designed to build relationships for future collaborative training.

"We learned about their entire military medical structure. We were taught about most aspects of their medical training center," said Capt. Zebulon Wilkin, the officer in charge from the 557th. Because they have not met like this before, the Soldiers focused on what they could learn from each other.

"This is the first time that there has been a gathering of this extent of Croatian and U.S. military medical personnel using open-forum discussions and familiarization," Wilkin said.

"I believe ... that we have provided a wonderful platform that will help both countries improve their medical training and ultimately lead to better care for our wounded warriors," Wilkin said.

The two units are planning future site visits and training opportunities to build on the momentum from this visit.

For more information on the 30th Medical Command, visit the 30th MEDCOM home page at www.30thmed. army.mil.



Staff Sgt. Ajita Warren

Sgt. 1st Class Boris Ledencan, Croatian Army (left) demonstrates how to use the Skedco Litter with Sgt. Kevin Perry, 557th Area Support Medical Company, 421st Multifunctional Medical Battalion, in Croatia, June 20.

18th Engineer Brigade change of command



Spc. lesha Howa

Maj. Gen. Aundre F. Piggee, (left) the commanding general of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, passes the 18th Engineer Brigade colors to Col. Scott A. Petersen, the 18th Eng. Bde's incoming commander during a change of command ceremony held on Tompkins Barracks Friday. Petersen took command from Col. Paul M. Paolozzi.

By Mike Bowers

21ST TSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

SCHWETZINGEN – Col. Scott A. Petersen assumed command of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command's 18th Engineer Brigade during a change of command ceremony held Friday on Tompkins Barracks in Schwetzingen.

Petersen, a native of Marinette, Wis., replaced Col. Paul M. Paolozzi, who commanded the unit since 2009, culminating with the brigade's deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom.

Maj. Gen. Aundre F. Piggee, commanding general of the 21st TSC, praised Paolozzi for his leadership and said he set the tone for the entire brigade.

"I thank you sincerely for your skilled and dedicated leadership," Piggee said. "I know I am speaking for everyone here, as I wish you and Rae Ann the best of luck in your future endeavors as you attend the War College Fellowship Program."

A 1989 U.S. Military Academy graduate, Peterson revealed that he is no stranger to the unit. "Having served as battalion commander in Iraq under his brigade, I can't tell you how honored and happy I am to be back with the 18th," he said.

Petersen takes over as the bri-

gade relocates to Schweinfurt. "Transitions and change are not new to the 18th. Through this transition, I know that we will reset professionally and get back to training and prepare for future changes," he said.

"The climate I've seen so far is that you have stayed sharp, since I was earlier in the brigade. I look forward to keeping that culture alive, serving Soldiers, families, fellow Sappers in Europe, the 21st TSC and U.S. Army Europe with my best effort grounded in the Army values."

Peterson earned a master's degree in industrial-organizational psychology and business administration and completed the Engineer Officer Advanced Course in 1993.

His assignments include assistant professor in the West Point Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership, chief of military training and assistant commandant at the School of Geospatial Intelligence, commander of a five-company unit while deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and executive office to the Chief of Engineers.

A Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, parachutist badge and Bronze Order of the DeFleury Medal are part of his military decorations and awards.



WWII Blamed For Murder

German grandmother Marianne Bordt, who was to be tried for murder Monday in Florida, was insane - at least partly - due to an injury she suffered during World War II, her defense has argued, delaying the trial. Bordt is accused of drowning her 5-year-old American-born grandson Camden Hiers in a bathtub while on vacation in Florida in 2010. She was said to be distraught at the fact that his parents were divorced. Bordt then tried to kill herself but failed and was found by her husband. Manfred Grieffenstein, a German-born psycho neurologist, carried out a series of tests on the 72-year-old and was expected to tell the Florida judge she has mental problems that date back to a head injury she suffered in a bombing raid by Russian forces on Breslau on October 7, 1944. This, combined with symptoms of depression and paranoia, contributed to the crime, he will argue. But the prosecution said they need time to find an expert in dementia and memory loss who could contradict Grieffenstein's argument, so the judge opted to postpone Monday's trial until both parties were ready. The defense is pleading insanity and thinks she should be detained in a Florida mental hospital the rest of her life, while prosecutors have called for the death penalty. Judge Angela Dempsey has, according to the Apalach Times, encouraged the two sides to reach a deal outside of court. Continuing the trial would mean flying in Germanspeaking witnesses, which could be expensive, she said. Bordt, from the village of Nufringen, is being held at the Florida State Hospital in Chattahoochee. She speaks no English, and has had extensive counseling to help her cope with the stress of the trial.

Gas Theft On Rise

A recent study by *auto.de* revealed that in 2011, 85,000 thefts were reported from the country's 14,100 gas stations, the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung reported Monday. Despite most gas stations being fitted with cameras, less than half of thefts last year were solved. The study suggested that the figures could be just 20 percent of the actual number, meaning there could have been 425,000 thefts in the space of a year. So, while police recorded losses on fuel of ϵ 5.75 million for 2011, this figure could be as high as ϵ 30 million. The study also found that thefts were more likely in bigger cities, with Solingen stations hit an average of 22 times a year. But police statistics named Cologne number one, with an average of 244 thefts per 100,000 inhabitants. The cities with the least reported thefts were Karlsruhe, Stuttgart, Bielefeld and Munich.

SOURCE: www.thelocal.de



Dear Ms. Vicki,

Before I got married to a Soldier, I had a great-paying job, home and car. I was living pretty well along with my children.

When we got married, I wanted to join him at his duty station, but he left before we did. He had no money to pay for moving our stuff, so I had to work extra shifts to make it happen.

When we arrived at the airport, he was drunk. I got to the housing on base, and the house was a mess.

We had nothing in the house, so he wanted me to use my credit card to buy some things and he agreed to pay them off.

Things got worse: he was drinking, women were calling and we even had a fight in front of the children. We had to leave because of all of the arguing. He was getting ready to be deployed anyway and we were going to use that time to see if we could make it work.

He ended up not getting deployed

because of his behavior, and we were trying to make it work, or so I thought.

I decided to take my children and return to my home state. He went back and forth with the money each month and provided what he wanted to. If I would say I was coming back to him, he would provide things, if not then he wouldn't.

I have tried to kill myself because of this. His verbal and mental abuse has driven me crazy.

I have reached out to his command for help, but he has always managed to make me look like a liar. If I were on base there, I would have gotten more help, but because of the distance they don't help.

The children and I don't have a home here. We have been bunking at different places. I told my husband this, and he said I should come home. He just moved into a 3-bedroom house off base, and we have nothing. He is living well off the Basic Allowance for Housing, and provides to us what he wants. I thought BAH was to provide for the family. If not, why is the government allowing Soldiers to defraud them?

His family is homeless, and he is living the life. Is that why Soldiers get married, to get extra money? I don't think he should be able to get away with this because he took a well-off family to nothing.

I have worked extra hard to build my credit and obtain the things I had, and now they are all gone because of him.

Please help the children and me. Thank you.

Distraught

Dear Distraught,

I hope you and your children have been doing well since you wrote me.

Hopefully, you have close family and friends who are willing to be supportive.

From what you report in your

letter, it sounds like you were in an abusive situation.

Your husband's behavior was not beneficial to you are your children.

Moreover, you had become so depressed and fed up with the situation that you tried to take your own life. This is not good.

I think it's best that you are separated from your husband.

It may be difficult, but you have to build a solid plan of support and one that will help rebuild the things you have lost.

It's not fair, and it's not your fault. You were being supportive and you trusted your husband. As a result, you left everything you accomplished to follow and support him.

Well, now that you know what his behavior is like, you can make different decisions. Honestly, I cannot tell you his behavior will ever change. You have to empower "you."

Now, he cannot leave you and your children destitute. He is paid BAH at a rate for dependents. You should receive a portion of it.

Here is an excerpt from Army Regulation 608-99: Soldiers are required to manage their personal affairs in a manner that does not bring discredit upon themselves or the U.S. Army, to include financial support of family members. The Army has designated a portion of a Soldier's basic allowance for housing entitlement to care for family members if the Soldier and spouse are separated (or simply living separately).

However, here's the deal: legally we do not know what a judge would order him to pay. You should be able to get help from his command.

Please call the commander or first sergeant and discuss the situation with them, and let me know how you are doing.

Mom2Mom to host breast-feeding open house

By Amy Smolinski

KAISERSLAUTERN MILITARY COMMUNITY MOM2MOM

To raise awareness each year of the benefits of breast-feeding and the need for global support, the World Alliance for Breast-feeding Action organizes World Breast-feeding Week Aug. 1-7.

Mom2Mom of the Kaiserslautern Military Community and its partners will present World Breast-feeding Week Open House 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday on Ramstein Air Base.

Mom²Mom of KMC is a community-wide network offering peer support and accurate information about breast-feeding to all families in the KMC. Their mission is to help each woman reach her individual breastfeeding goals.

The open house, co-sponsored with the Population Health Department Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and representatives from community organizations that support breast-feeding, including

LRMC Maternal Health, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children Overseas and Army and Air Force New Parent Support, will also include free family activities, like a bouncy castle. Zumba class and door prizes.

World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated in 120 countries and marks the signing of the World Health Organization and UNICEF document Innocenti Declaration, which lists the benefits of breastfeeding, plus global and governmental goals.

To mark this occasion, at 10:30 a.m. Friday and Saturday, thousands of breast-feeding women and their children across the world will gather in their own communities to take part in the Big Latch On, a synchronized breast-feeding event in multiple locations.

The first Big Latch On took place in Aotearoa, New Zealand, in 2005 and took off globally. In 2011, 5687 women participated in the Global Big Latch On. The aim this year is to once again break this record

The Big Latch On is informed by the principles of community development, providing the opportunity for breast-feeding women to get together in their local communities, host their own events and identify opportunities for ongoing support.

Breastfeeding contributes to the normal growth and development of babies and children, and children who are not breastfed are at increased risk of infant morbidity and mortality, adult obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, premenopausal breast cancer and ovarian cancer (both mom and baby.)

The WHO recommends breast-feeding exclusively for the first six months of a baby's life to optimize these benefits, continuing to breast-feed for two years and as long thereafter as is mutually desired by a woman and her child.

For more information about the Big Latch On, visit www.biglatchon.org.

GET OUT! area events

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

August 2

Stuttgarter Sommerfest – Experience one of Germany's most popular summer festivals, the Stuttgarter Sommerfest. Festival spans from Schlossplatz and the Neues Schloss to the State Opera and features 33 live bands, seafood, summer cocktails and Swabian food, 11 a.m.midnight Aug. 2, 11 a.m.- 2 a.m. Aug. 3-4 and 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Aug. 5. www. sommerfest-stuttgart.de.

Salzburg Festival — The Salzburg Festival is a famous music and theater festival held each year in Salzburg, Austria. The festival was first held in 1877 and includes performances of classical music, opera, and famous and new plays. In the past, nearly 250,000 visitors gathered in Salzburg for the festival, making it by far one of the biggest tourist attractions of the year. Festival runs through Sept. 2. www.buzzoffbase.com. Bierbörse - Bierbörse is a chain of annual beer festivals held in 11 cities across Germany. Sample up to 1,000 different types of beer from 75 countries. Bierbörse 2012 can be found in Bonn, Dorsten, Düsseldorf-Benrath, Frankfurt, Hückeswagen, Karlsruhe, Köln, Leipzig, Leverkusen-Opladen, Mainz, Schwerin and Viersen-Dulken. Free entry. Fest runs through Sept. 2. www.bierboerse.com.

August 3

Castle Tour - Enjoy a guided tour of the Falkenstein Castle in English at 8 p.m. Tour will meet in front of the open-air stage near the Burgstubb Pub in Falkenstein north of Winnweiler. Visitors should bring lanterns and sturdy shoes to navigate during this moonlit tour complete with ghost tales. Reservations: 06302-602-61 or email info@ winnweiler-vg.de.

German-American Volksfest – Celebrate the German-American Volksfest in Grafenwöhr through Aug. 5 at Camp Kasserine. Fest offers amusement park style rides and more than 100 booths selling souvenirs, gifts and international foods ranging from barbecue and ice cream to nachos, tacos, burgers and steaks. The volksfest can only be accessed via Gate 6 and exited from Gate 4 near Tanzfleck. Parking is available on-base and in the city of Grafenwöhr. Free shuttle takes visitors from the city's parking lots to the festival and back every 15 - 30 minutes. Festival goers must carry ID to access the grounds. www. volksfest-grafenwoehr.com.

Berlin Beer Festival - The Berlin Beer Festival features one of the largest beer gardens in the world, measuring one mile long. Sample more than 2,000 types of beer from more than 300 breweries around the world. Festival fun begins at noon at the Karl-Marx-Allee and runs through Aug. 5. Sickingen Market - Shop and sightsee at the Sickingen market on the Lothar Snader Square in Landstuhl through Aug. 6. Enjoy fireworks at the Nanstein Castle Aug. 3. Fish Festival – Savor fresh fish and all the fixings during Ketsch's annual Backfischfest through Aug.12. Festival starts at 3 p.m. Im Bruch 68775 Ketsch

Mainfest Festival - Enjoy one of the largest folk festivals in Frankfurt. The Mainfest takes place along the banks of the river Main and visitors can enjoy games, rides, food and fireworks through Aug. 6. www.frankfurt-tourismus.de.

August 10

Theater and Music Festival – Downtown Kaiserslautern turns into a huge outdoor theatre and music stage for two days in August, with performers, artists and musicians coming in from all over the globe to put on the "Get Out! Theater and Music Festival, " one of the region's most popular theatre and music festivals www.buzzoffbase.com.

August 11

Legends of Rock - Enjoy the Music in the Park event at Schwetzingen Castle 6 p.m. www.eventim.de

Paris Plages - This annual event sees the typically busy Paris streets along the Seine river quickly become transformed into luxurious and relaxing beaches, Sand, deck chairs, beach balls and ice cream sellers are hauled in to complete the beach theme, which makes Paris Plages a total experience. Visitors will find these idyllic sandy beaches spread across two miles along the Seine. Live entertainment and sports are free. Enjoy the sun and fun through Aug. 17. www.buzzoffbase.com.

August 12

Medieval Market — Head to the Volkspark in Kaiserslautern for a medieval market and fair that includes knights, traders, jugglers and craftspeople setting up camp in the park. Visitors can enjoy a hearty selection of food and drink, unique musical entertainment and thrilling fire shows. www.buzzoffbase.com

August 14

Hidden Heidelberg - Visit some of the lesser known sights scattered throughout the Heidelberg area during a special tour. Start the day with a train ride to

Leutershausen, where visitors can journey to the pilgrimage church containing a statue of a Black Madonna, take a walk through the old town, visit the co-op wine store and the oldest church in Heidelberg, containing 15th century frescoes. There will also be time to tour the hidden castle of Heidelberg, the Tiefburg and learn about its mysterious history. http://affiliates.uso.org/rheinmain/.

August 18

Elvis Festival — Travel to Bad Nauheim for the 11th anniversary celebration of the life of Elvis Presley and his time stationed as a Soldier in Germany. Tour includes some of Elvis' favorite places in Bad Nauheim and a day pass to the local spa facilities. Other events include music from Disc Jockey Halmut Radermacher, a fashion show covering the '50s to the '70s, a classic car parade and the Elvis Rock'n' Roll Show, DSN 370-7924, www.uso.org/rheinmain.

Mark Twain Tour - Heidelberg's Association of Tour Guides offers their annual Mark Twain Tour in English 3 p.m. Beginning with a visit to the University's famed Student Prison and the festive Alte Aula auditorium, the tour follows in the footsteps of world-famous author Mark Twain. Group will meet at the Lion Fountain near University Square. Cost is € 7. Civ. 06221-436880.

Rudesheim Wine Festival – The small Rhine wine town of Rüdesheim hosts a wine festival featuring wines of the region as well as food. The festival takes place on the main street and vistors can enjoy views of the Rhine river and the vineyards above while sipping wine. Tour offers wine tasting novices and newcomers to the area a chance to enjoy Rüdesheim and its wines. Fest runs through Aug. 20. www.ruedesheimerweinfest de

Classics Car Show - Get your motor running during the annual Kaiserslautern Classics Car Show in downtown Kaiserslautern with vintage cars on display ranging from Porsche and Volkswagen to some American models, including Corvettes and Cadillacs. The Kaiserslautern Classics Car Show also features a number of musical acts playing popular hits from the 50s, 60s and 70s. Surrounding stores will remain open until 10 p.m. for shoppers. www. huzzoffhase com

August 23

Wine Festival - The 80th annual Mainz Wine Festival takes place in the Mainz municipal park and rose garden. Enjoy a variety of wines and other surprises. www. mainz de

coming to **THEATERS**

THE WATCH

(Ben Stiller, Jonah Hill) Four everyday suburban guys come together to form a neighborhood watch group, but only as an excuse to escape their humdrum lives one night a week. But when they accidentally discover that their town has become overrun with aliens posing as ordinary suburbanites, they have no choice but to save their neighborhood - and the world - from total extermination. (Rated R for some strong sexual content including references, pervasive language and violent images) 85



MEN IN BLACK 3

(Will Smith) Agent J and K are back ... in time. J has seen some inexplicable things in his 15 years with the Men In Black, but nothing, not even aliens, perplexes him as much as his wry, reticent partner. But when K's life and the fate of the planet are put at stake, Agent J will have to travel back in time to put things right. (PG-13 for sci-fi action violence, and brief suggestive content) 103 minutes.

PLAYING THIS WEEK

Heidelberg, Patrick Henry Village

Aug. 3 - STEP UP REVOLUTION (PG-13) 7 p.m.; THE WATCH (R) 10 p.m. Aug. 4 - MEN IN BLACK 3 (PG-13) 4 p.m.; STEP UP REVOLUTION (PG-13) 7 p.m.; THE WATCH (R) 10 p.m.

Aug. 5 - MEN IN BLACK (PG-13) 4 p.m.; STEP UP REVOLUTION (PG-13) 7 p.m. Aug. 6 - THE WATCH (R) 7 p.m.

Aug. 7 - STEP UP REVOLUTION (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Aug. 8 - STEP UP REVOLUTION (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Aug. 9 - MEN IN BLACK 3 (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Vogelweh, Galaxy Aug 3. - THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) 4 p.m.; BATTLESHIP (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Aug 4. - CHERNOBYL DIARIES (R) 4 p.m.; THE DICTATOR (R) 7 p.m.

Aug 5. - BATTLESHIP (PG-13) 4 p.m.; MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS (PG-13) 7 p.m. Ramstein, Gateway Cineplex Aug. 3 - STEP UP REVOLUTION (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 9 p.m.; THE WATCH (R) 11:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 8:15 p.m.; MEN IN BLACK 3 (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 9:15 p.m. Aug 4 - STEP UP REVOLUTION (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 9 p.m.; THE WATCH (R) 11:15 p.m., 2:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 8:15 p.m.; MEN IN BLACK 3 (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 9:15 p.m. Aug. 5 - STEP UP REVOLUTION (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 9 p.m.; THE WATCH (R) 11:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 8:15 p.m.; MEN IN BLACK 3 (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 9:15 p.m. Aug 6. - STEP UP REVOLUTION (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m.; THE WATCH (R) 11:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 8:15 p.m.; MEN IN BLACK 3 (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 6:45 p.m.; THE PIRATES! BAND OF MISFITS (PG) 11:30 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m. Aug. 7 - STEP UP REVOLUTION (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m.; THE WATCH (R) 11:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 8:15 p.m.; MEN IN BLACK 3 (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 6:45 p.m.; THE MUPPETS (PG) 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Aug. 8 - STEP UP REVOLUTION (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m.; THE WATCH (R) 11:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 8:15 p.m.; MEN IN BLACK 3 (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 6:45 p.m.; THE PIRATES! BAND OF MISFITS (PG) 11:30 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m. Aug. 9 - STEP UP REVOLUTION (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m.; THE WATCH (R) 2:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 8:15 p.m.; MEN IN BLACK 3 (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 6:45 p.m.;

THEATER INFORMATION

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

Visit www.aafes.com for updated listings and more movie descriptions Mannheim Cineplex (P4 13), CinemaxX (N7, 17), Mannheim, civ. 01805-625466, www.cineplex.de

Mannheim, CinemaxX, Cineplex - English Language movies Aug. 2-5 - BRAVE (PG) 5:30 p.m. at CinemaxX

Aug. 2-5 - TED (R) 5:15 p.m., 8:15 p.m., 11 p.m. at CinemaxX

THE MUPPETS (PG) 11:30 a.m.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Heidelberg Health Clinic will operate under reduced hours due to the Heidelberg Medical Department Activity deactivation ceremony 10 a.m. Aug. 3 on Nachrichten Kaserne. Most of the clinic sections, including pediatrics, immunizations, the lab, radiology and optometry will open from 7:30-9 a.m. and close until 1 p.m. The pharmacy will close 10-11 a.m. Afterward, normal Friday operations clinic schedules will resume. The clinic's projected closure date is June 2013. DSN 371-3130, civ. 06221-17-3130.

Slooze Show

Parents and kids can enjoy a good sticky soak in green slime during the ultimate slooze show, sponsored by the Patrick Henry Village Chapel in conjunction with its annual Vacation Bible School noon-3 p.m. Aug. 3 at the Patrick Henry Village Park in Heidelberg. Event is free and is open to all ID card holders. DSN 388-9408, civ. 06221-338-9408.

Army Substance Abuse Program

To assist commanders and directorates in meeting the Army Substance Abuse Program's annual training requirement of four hours for Soldiers and two hours for Department of the Army civilians (in accordance with Army Regulation 600-85), the ASAP Prevention and Education Branch will offer classes 9-10 a.m. or 1:30-2:30 p.m. Aug. 14, 21 and Sept. 25 in Room 208, Bldg. 128 on Patton Barracks in Heidelberg. Due to seating limitations, registration is required. DSN 370-6068, civ. 06221-57-6068.

American Forces Network Radio

American Forces Network Europe now streams music on www.afneurope.net. "AFN 360" features mix of music shows from AFN The Eagle and Power Network as top of the hour radio news.

Sexual Assault Reporting

A revised Department of Defense directive allows dependents 18 and older who are eligible for military system health care to report sexual assault under the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program. Restricted reports allow victims to confidentially seek help and only report to selected individuals without starting an investigation. Unrestricted reports follow the same procedures, but a full investigation will be launched. The 24-hour sexual assault and domestic violence hotline for Mannheim and Heidelberg is civ. 0170-609-2862.

EMPLOYMENT

ACAP Counselor

The Army Career and Alumni program is seeking fulltime counselors in the Heidelberg Area. A master's degree is required. Applicants must also have experience in counseling, training, education or related field and be able to operate Windows software. Must be eligible for individual logistical support. DSN 370-9474, civ. 6221-57-9474

Self Defense Instructor

Child, Youth and School Services seeks a youth self defense instructor to teach self defense to ages 13-18. Must have certifications. DSN 486-5412, civ. 06371-86-5412.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

KAISERSLAUTERN

Education

- ◆Teen Money Teens can learn how to make wise financial decisions during a free teen money seminar hosted by the Army Community Service Financial Readiness Office 11:30 a.m. Aug. 7 in the special events room in the KMC Mall Food Court. Registration required. Civ. 0631-3406-4015.
- ◆ Love Languages Explore the five love languages and learn how to reconnect and communicate effectively with loved ones in a class offered through Family Advocacy 6-8 p.m. Aug. 14 and 21 in Bldg. 2917 on Pulaski Barracks. Registration required, Civ. 0631-3406-4203. Community
- + BOSS Meeting Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meets 1:30 p.m. Aug. 2 and first and third Thursdays at Java Cafe, Bldg, 273 on Rhine Ordnance Barracks. DSN 493-4215, civ. 0631-3406-4215.
- Kleber VAT Office Due to personnel shortages, the Kleber Value Added Tax office will be closed Aug. 3. The VAT offices on Pulaski Barracks, Landstuhl and Miesau Army Depot will be open. VAT forms may be ordered at www.mwraermanv.com. DSN 483-1780, civ. 0631-411-1780.
- ◆Oktoberfest Sign up with Outdoor Recreation in Bldg. 2905 on Pulaski Barracks by Aug. 3 for Oktoberfest weekend at Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch Oct. 5-7. Price includes round-trip transportation, two nights at Edelweiss and a morning and evening shuttle run to the Oktoberfest grounds Oct. 6. DSN 493-4117, civ. 0631-3406-4117, www. mwrgermany.com.
- Citizenship Outreach Representatives from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services office in Frankfurt will conduct an outreach 9-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-2 p.m. Aug. 7 in Bldg. 151. Room 236 on Sembach Kaserne. USCIS will accept immigration petitions and answer questions on naturalization DSN 483-8892, civ. 0631-411-8892.
- ◆ Job Fair Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host a nonappropriated funds job fair 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Aug. 7 at Armstrong's Club, Blda. 1036 on Vogelweh Housing. Attendees should bring resume, valid passport and social security card, transcripts, release from active duty form and proof of previous civilian employment, Civ. 0631-3406-4009.
- ◆ EFMP Summer Camp Children ages 6-12 enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program can enjoy a free day camp 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Aug 20-24. Campers meet at Pulaski Park and explore local attractions like the zoo, dinosaur park and the bowling center and much more. DSN 493-4094, civ 0631-3406-4094
- ◆Teen Shuttle Child, Youth and School Services has resumed its teen

shuttle service. Pick-up and drop-off points are located throughout Vogelweh, Vogelweh Housing, Ramstein, Landstuhl and the Melkerei in Landstuhl Village. ID card, shuttle card and permission slips required to ride. Shuttle card applications are available at Central Enrollment and Registration in Bldg. 2898 on Pulaski Barracks, DSN 493-4516, civ. 0631-3406-4516 and on Landstuhl Post, Bldg. 3810, DSN 486-8943, civ. 06371-86-8943, www.mwraermanv.com.

- ◆Sembach Warrior Zone The all-new Warrior Zone located in the bowling center in Bldg. 104 on Sembach Kaserne is now open 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Sunday. DSN 496-6342, civ. 06302-67-6342,
- www.mwrgermany.com
- KMC Onstage KMC Onstage in Bldg. 3232 on Kleber Kaserne offers free programming to wounded warriors and their guests at the Fisher House. Landstuhl patrons may be able to obtain transportation to and from KMC Onstage. DSN 483-6626, civ. 0631-411-6626.
- ◆Pulaski VAT Office The Pulaski Barracks Value Added Tax office's new hours are 8 a m -3:30 n m Monday-Friday. DSN 493-4035, civ. 0631-346-4035.
- ◆Room Rental Armstrong's Club in Bldg. 1036 on Vogelweh Housing offers room rental service for holiday, office and birthday parties. Civ. 0631-354-9986, www.mwrgermany.com.

HEIDELBERG

Education

- English Classes There are no English as a Second Language classes during August, Classes resume in September. DSN 370-6975, civ. 06221-57-6975.
- ◆ ACS Classes Job Search Overview and USAJOBS Application Process, 10 a.m.-noon Aug. 7, Village Pavilion Community Center, Bldg. 4507, PHV; Professional Resume Writing, 10 a.m.-noon Aug. 8, Village Pavilion Community Center, Bldg. 4507, PHV; Pregnancy Support Group, 1-2:30 p.m. Aug. 8, ACS Annex, Bldg. 4531, PHV; Culture College, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Aug. 6-9: Army Community Service Volunteer Orientation, 10-11 a.m. Aug. 8. Registration is required. Classes are held in the Community Support Center, Bldg. 3850, unless listed otherwise.
- ◆ Central Texas College Central Texas College Term I registration is available now for classes Aug. 7-Oct. 29. Course offerings include criminal justice classes on Patton Barracks in Heidelberg and on Coleman Barracks in Mannheim (two classes are in the correctional facility). Microsoft certification classes are also held monthly. Students can earn college credit for military education and training and use tuition assistance and financial

aid. DSN 373-8660, civ. 06221-17-8660, www.europe.ctcd.edu. Community

• NAF Job Fair - ID card holders can attend a non-appropriated funds job fair noon-4 p.m. Aug. 2 in the Village Grille, Bldg. 4506 on Patrick Henry Village. Applicants will have the opportunity to meet with prospective employers and submit applications on the spot.

www.mwraermanv.com

- ◆ Road Construction The city of Heidelberg has announced road repairs that will affect outbound traffic headed to autobahns A656 (Heidelberg-Mannheim) or 5. Construction will affect the intersections and connecting lanes near where A 656 and B37 merge into Bergheimer Straße Friday nights through early Monday mornings Aug. 3-6, with final roadwork beginning the night of Aug. 9 through Aug. 13. Please be advised one of the detours directs drivers across Czerny Bridge near the Heidelberg shopping center. Drivers should allow extra time for travel.
- ◆Trivia Challenge Bring a team or join one for trivia 7-9 p.m. Aug. 3 at Legends on Patrick Henry Village. DSN 388-9570, civ. 06221-338-9570.
- ◆ACS Outing Army Community Service will host a trip to the Heidelberg Zoo 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Aug. 4. Group will meet at ACS, Community Support Center, Bldg. 3850 and take public transportation. DSN 370-6883/6975, civ. 06221-57-6883/6975, www.mwrgermany.com.
- ◆ BOSS Trip Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will walk 137 miles from Warsaw to the Sanctuary of St. Mary in Czestochowa for the Polish Soldier's Pilgrimage Aug. 5-14. Soldiers must arrange permissive temporary duty through their unit leaders to participate. DSN 373-5275, civ. 06221-17-5275.
- ◆College Night College students and alumni can attend a party and karaoke night 9 p.m.-close Aug. 10 at Legends on Patrick Henry Village. Guests can wear college-branded gear for a chance to win a prize for the school with the most representatives. www.mwraermanv.com.
- ◆Hot Water Outage The Heidelberg Utility Company announced mandatory maintenance work will be conducted on the district heat supply system in preparation for the uncoming winter, affecting all facilities on Patrick Henry Village. Simultaneously, water metering devices in school building 4498 will be exchanged. Due to this maintenance, there will be no hot water and heating 10 a.m. Aug. 11 until 4 a.m. Aug. 12. Please plan accordingly. The utility company apologizes for the inconvenience
- ◆ Community Yard Sale There will be a community yard sale 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Aug. 11 at the Patrick Henry Village park. To reserve a

- table to sell goods, contact Outdoor Recreation, DSN 388-9282, civ. 06221-338-9282.
- ◆Talent Contest Register by Aug. 11 for a talent contest and a chance to win prizes 8 p.m. Aug. 18 at Slapshots on Patton Barracks. DSN 373-5190, civ. 06221-17-5190.
- ◆ BOSS Cheap Eats Better Opportunties for Single Services serves up a free meal for all military personnel 5 p.m. Aug. 15 in the Warrior Zone on Patton Barracks. DSN 373-5275, civ. 06221-17-5275.
- ◆BOSS Meeting Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meets 3:30 p.m. Aug. 15 at BOSS Headquarters, Bldg 106 on Patton Barracks DSN 373-5275, civ. 06221-17-5275.
- New Student Orientations Heidelberg High School will host orientation for families of students in grades 9-12 new to the Heidelbera area 10 a.m. Aug. 23 at the school. Heidelberg Middle School will host its orientation for families of students in grades 6-8 10:30 a.m. Aug. 24 in the school's multipurpose room. DSN 388-9310, civ. 06221-678-9310.
- ◆C.A.R.E. Fair The Community Activities Registration and Education Fair will be 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Aug. 25 at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion Community Center. www. mwrgermany.com/special_events/ CARF fair html
- ◆Salsa Dancing ID card holders 16 and older can learn basic steps of Salsa, Merengue, Bachata, Cumbia, Rumba and Guaguanco 5-7 p.m. Saturdays in Bldg. 4507 Patrick Henry Village Community Center. DSN 388-9418. civ. 06221-338-9418.
- ◆ITR Information, Tickets and Reservations, now in the Village Pavilion Community Center, can assist with booking Outdoor Recreation trips. registration for Rod and Gun Club classes, event tickets and more. Hours are 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday. Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays and closed U.S. holidays. DSN 388-9438, civ. 06221-338-9438.

MANNHFIM

Community

- ◆ Grand Opening The Warrior Zone on Coleman Barracks will host a grand opening at its new location in Bldg. 25 (above Mike's Pub) on Coleman Barracks 4 p.m. Aug. 3. DSN 382-4149/4410, civ. 0621-779-4410/4149, www mwraermany com
- ◆ Board Game Night Play board games 4:30-10 p.m. Mondays at the Warrior Zone on Coleman Barracks. DSN 382-4410, civ. 0621-779-4410.
- Battlefield Night Team up with friends and play Battlefield online on X-Box or PlayStation 3 4:30-10 p.m. Thursdays at the Warrior Zone on Coleman Barracks. DSN 382-4410, civ 0621-779-4410

UMUC races in Dragon Boat Cup

By Brooke Brown
UMUC EUROPE

Braving a rainy Saturday on the Neckar River, 20 staff members from the University of Maryland University College Europe paddled with all their might to compete in the 7th Annual Heidelberger Dragonboat Cup in Heidelberg July 21.

Sponsored by the Watersport Club and the city of Heidelberg, the event consisted of more than 40 teams from various German and international organizations and companies in the region. The UMUC Virtual Dragons, named after their award-winning UMUC sister team in Adelphi, Md., was the only team from the Heidelberg Department of Defense community. In the ancient Chinese tradition of dragon boat racing, 18 athletes sit in a long boat adorned with a decorative Chinese dragon head



Ken Pisan

The University of Maryland University College Europe Virtual Dragons paddle hard on the Neckar river during the Dragon Boat Cup July 21 in Heidelberg.

and tail, paddling to the rhythm of a drummer sitting at the front of the boat. The members of the UMUC Virtual Dragons trained for several months in preparation for the big day. With hundreds of spectators looking on, the team showed their paddling prowess while having a fun and memorable experience on the water.

The challenge proved to be an

excellent team building activity and an opportunity to encourage German-American relations.

"This is definitely a good opportunity for other Americans in the area to team build and mingle with members of the local German community," said team captain Patricia Jameson, senior executive assistant and director of special projects at UMUC.

conducted an awards ceremony

on the packed clubhouse patio,

where he thanked the staff and

the Heidelberg Women's Golf

Association volunteers and

staying **ACTIVE**

Unit Level Flag Football

Sign up by Aug. 8 for unit level flag football at Rhine Ordnance Barracks Fitness Center in Kaiserslautern. Coaches meeting is 6 p.m. Aug. 8. Contact DSN 493-2086, civ. 0631-3406-3086. www.mwrgermany.com.

Rafting and Canyoning Trip

Travel to Landeck, Austria with Kaiserslautern Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Outdoor Recreation Aug. 10-13 for a rafting and canyoning adventure. www.mwrgermany.com.

Flag Football Officials Clinic

Heidelberg Sports and Fitness will sponsor a flag football officials clinic and tournament Aug. 13-18 in Bldg. 128 on Patton Barracks. Call DSN 373-8032, civ. 06221-17-8032 to register. www.mwrgermany.com.

CYSS Football Registration

Registration is open for Child, Youth and School Services fall football program in Heidelberg. Youth ages 6-15 can participate in flag football, tackle football and cheerleading. Season begins Aug. 20. Register at https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil or at Parent Central Services on Patrick Henry Village, Bldg. 4443. DSN 388-9240, cv. 06221-338-9240.

Fall Sports Registration

Registration is now available for Kaiserslautern Child, Youth and School Services fall sports. Register online at https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil or visit Parent Central Services, Bldg. 2898, Pulaski Barracks. DSN 493-4516, civ. 0631-3406-4516.

Personal Trainer Services

Get one-on-one attention and motivation to help you reach your goals. Services available at Heidelberg fitness centers. Call DSN 370-7506 or civ. 06221-57-7506 for more information.

Fitness Instructors Needed

USAG Kaiserslautern sports office is looking for group fitness, martial arts instructors and personal trainers for Army fitness facilities. Call DSN 486-8317, civ. 06371-86-7172.

Coaches Needed

Heidelberg Sports and Fitness is seeking head coaches for community soccer, basketball, softball and volleyball teams. Practice and tryouts are Tuesday and Thursday at Patton Fitness Center. Call Coach Benson DSN 373-8032, civ. 06221-17-8032 for more information.

Gymnastics Classes

Kaiserslautern Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's SKIESUnlimited now offers gymnastics classes for toddlers and children. For class offerings, times and prices call Parent Central Services at DSN 493-4156, civ. 0631-3406-4516.

Bowlopolis

Now through Aug. 26 the Patrick Henry Village Bowling and Entertainment Center is giving students ages 17 and under Bowlopolis discount cards for the summer.

Parent Exercise Room

The Sembach Fitness Center in Bldg. 105 offers an exercise room for parents that features the latest in cardio equipment and a special area for little ones while parents work out. Open 5:30 a.m.- 9 p.m. Monday - Friday and 9 a.m.- 4 p.m weekends and holidays. DSN 496-7530, civ. 06302-67-7530.

Send the Herald Post Your Photos

If you have photos from sporting events, e-mail them along with the details of the event and names of those pictured to usaghd.post@eur.army.mil or usarmy.badenwur.usag.mbx.postnewspaper@mail.mil.

Golfers gather for annual Heidelberg Open

By Rex Gribble

HEIDELBERG GOLF COURSE

Nearly 150 American and German golfers took part in the annual three-day Heidelberg Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Heidelberg golf course, with two young golfers vying for the championship playing sub-par golf

Nikolaj Straetz fired a six under par 66 opening day for a four stroke lead over Joshua Woodfox. Straetz followed with a 75 Saturday while Woodfox shot a 71 to tie.

The final day, Straetz shot 70 to Woodfox's 72 to win by two strokes with an overall total of five under par 211.

The players were still tied Sunday after the front nine, but Straetz had gained two strokes by the time they reached No. 16.

Woodfox fired an eagle three from the tree-lined rough, his second in the tourney, to regain a tie, but then hit a bad drive on the next hole leading to a double bogey. Straetz was the winner when they both had pars on the final hole. Tobias Enders shot a 70 on the final day to climb to third place at 219.

The field was divided into eight flights of 18 players based on handicap. The level of play was indicated by several sub-par rounds and in fact the top flight alone had 126 birdies plus four eagles overall.

Flight B was won by 20-yearold Marty Mahler with 224 and Stefan Botzenhardt shot a first round 72 and a 222 total to win Flight C. Klaus Rudolf Brixle and Michael Wilkens tied Flight D with 241, with Brixle the score card winner.

Roger Verville won Flight E with 246 and teenager Daniel Whiting was Flight F winner at 238. Lukas Birkel won Flight G at 257, and the final flight H winner was Justin Bates at 268, a stroke better than Volker Schultz.

Following play, Jim Jenet and his partner beat two qualifiers in the two-man putting contest held on the 18th green, and Joshua Woodfox won the Long Drive on the 18th hole after qualifying two days earlier with a 365 yard drive. Golf Director Ed Galvan





Photos by Regina Hington

Top, Nikolaj Straetz putts the ball during the Heidelberg Open held in Oftersheim over the weekend. Bottom, Marty Mahler swings on the way to the green as his brother and caddy, Richard Mahler, looks on.

IMMIGRATION

continued from page 1

will be offering the outreach.

"Most applications – about 60 to 70 percent – are filled out incorrectly or missing documents," Owen said. "We can help people fix those things on the spot."

Nearly every day, a service member arrives at the Kleber Kaserne passport office asking how to bring a foreign born family member stateside, said Sean Osborne, a garrison passport agent. Planning early is the key thing.

"We have a lot of Soldiers and family members say they are leaving in two weeks and need to get a visa," Osborne said. "That's not enough time."

Filing the I-130 form can be challenging. Immigration applications can take several months, he said.

Without proper documents, foreign-born family members entering the U.S. may face legal issues. One former employee's spouse entered the U.S. under false pretenses and was then barred from the States for five years, Osborne said.

Now, with the USCIS outreach, those service members can avoid booking appointments, driving to Frankfurt, finding parking and returning several times to correct errors, Osborne said.

"This should streamline the process, help customers more and also save time for [the] office," Osborne said.

Most applications are for military members with foreign-born spouses.



Rick Scavetta

Sean Osborne, a passport agent at U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern, discusses how to apply for immigration visas with customers at his office on Kaiserslautern's Kleber Kaserne. A new monthly outreach effort brings immigration services to nearby Sembach Kaserne.

Others are for parents, children or siblings to immigrate. In the past, USCIS visited the Kaiserslautern Military Community annually.

Recently, they noticed several applications from service members in the Baumholder and Kaiser-slautern areas, prompting the monthly outreach.

"It's a pretty large community, so we'll bring the services to them," Owens said. "This is a trial run. If there's a great response, we'll continue this service."

The upcoming USCIS outreach is Tuesday at Sembach Kaserne, 9 - 11 a.m. and 12:30- 2:30 p.m.

NATO -

continued from page 1

their hard work and dedication to the mission as well as his battalion command teams in Belgium, the Netherlands and Italy. "I could not have asked for a better team of leaders - I am continually impressed by your professionalism, your passion, your stamina and your loyalty to me and your Soldiers. Thank you for all you continue to do to lead, train and care for your Soldiers and their families."

This was Constantine's second time to command within U.S. Army NATO.

Previously, he was the battalion commander for the Allied Forces North Battalion in the Netherlands.

Taking over the reins of a brigade that encompasses 37 separate locations in 14 countries is Col. Robert S. Larsen.

He's no stranger to this area of Germany, as he previously served in U.S. Army Europe as the director of the USAREUR chorus.

"I am humbled and realize I have been given much and much is expected," Larsen said about taking over the brigade. "I assure you, I am here to serve you.

As the brigade colors were passed from outgoing to incoming, at the same time and almost unnoticed, Command Sgt. Maj. Mark K. Schindler quietly stepped to the side and allowed his replacement, Command Sgt. Maj. Joanne M. Cox to take his place and receive the colors from Larsen, completing the change of the brigade command team.

"Today does not truly allow me to thank everyone who has made a real difference during our stay in this great unit," Schindler said.

"This ceremony is not just about the celebration of who we are in the U.S. Army, but also a celebration of the unit we serve, U.S. Army NATO," he said. Cox comes to the brigade from the Second Infantry Division in Fort Lewis, Washington, and is no stranger to U.S. Army NATO either, having previously served as the Battalion Command Sergeant Major for the Allied Forces North Battalion in Brunssum, the Netherlands.

"I am honored to have been selected to serve with and for the leaders, Soldiers, civilians, family members and partners of U.S. Army NATO," Cox said during her remarks. "I will carry forward the positive, capable leadership provided by CSM Schindler as we adapt to the evolving NATO mission."

The final piece to this late afternoon ceremony was bittersweet.

After 65 years of the U.S. Army and its Soldiers and families calling Schwetzingen home, the U.S. Army NATO Brigade cased its colors.

This officially marked the start of the brigade's move to its new home at Sembach Kaserne, where it will become part of the Kaiserslautern Military Community.

U.S. Army NATO Commander, Maj. Gen. James C. Boozer thanked the local leaders in attendance for their support of the U.S. military over the last six decades.

"To the leaders and citizens of Schwetzingen, thank you. Thank you for over 65 years of friendship and hospitality to U.S. Army forces in Germany, for embracing and sharing your beautiful city with us."

"It's hard to believe we won't be making anymore memories here with our friends."

The first Soldiers from the NATO Brigade are scheduled to begin moving into their new building on Sembach by the middle of August.

For more information on the U.S. Army NATO Brigade, visit www.usanato.army.mil/.

RACE

continued from page 1

It was the garrison's second year in the race, and the first time that BOSS entered two teams.

The first BOSS team started off fast by pushing their wagon through two sand obstacles, but soon encountered confusion at the turnaround.

"When we [got] around the corner to the turnaround, I didn't know where I was going, and I ran into the gate and it went all downhill from there," said Staff Sgt. Ellis Adams, who steered one wagon. Because of this, his team lost some time and finished in five minutes and 48 seconds.

Sgt. Victor Velasquez of the 181st Signal Company and 43rd Sig. Battalion was part of the first BOSS team. He said pushing the wagon " [It] was definitely hard and I couldn't see anything, so I was just running. It's like running with blinders on." He likened the pushing of the hay wagon to pushing a Humvee.

The rigor of the hay wagon race was felt by every team.

Stefan Teichert, a local national triathlete from the team "Poseidon Youngsters," did the race for the sixth time and trained for it by swimming, biking and running. For him, the hay wagon was "very, very heavy. After three minutes [of pulling it], I am cold."

Giancuca Salvadori, a member of the Italian team who pushed the wagon, said, "It's difficult, more difficult to push. We need some training for this. [For the] Italian [race] we do the training for one year."

The hay wagon race began in Eppelheim in 2000 after Eppelheim's French partner city, Dammarie-les-Lys, introduced mayor Dieter Mörlein to the Italian version of the race called the Palio in Montebelluna, Verena Fabrizi, Mörlein's community relations advisor said.

Mörlein invited the garrison to participate in the race because USAG B-W is one of its partner communities. He described Eppelheim's relationship with the garrison positively, and expressed sadness about its upcoming inactivation.

"We have [a] friendship [with] the American garrison Baden-Württemberg. We have [a]friendship with the colonel, the Soldiers and one time in the year we have a barbecue in Eppelheim and we invite the Soldiers from here ..."

Even with the pending closure, Mörlein did not think inactivation would affect the partnership between the garrison and the city of Eppelheim. "A partnership is a sanction between the mayor, between the Colonel, between the Soldiers," he said.

After the hay wagon race, BOSS team members received certificates for their participation and enjoyed the fest's live band and boxing matches.

Other activities at the fest included a children's version of the hay wagon race and a kettcar race, which was a new addition to the fest. Col. DeCoster and Mörlein were the first people to ride these vehicles, which were similar to a child's four-wheeled bicycle.

The kettcar race poked fun at the Formula One race in nearbyHockenheim.

To view more photos from the Eppelheim fest, visit our Flickr site at www.flickr.com/heraldpost