

HeraldPOST

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

HP THURSDAY
June 21, 2012

Speed Read

SHARPENING SKILLS

Family readiness group leaders tackle an obstacle course and share experiences during a forum in Sembach. 8



VOLUNTEERS HONORED

A 30th Medical Command husband-and-wife team will be presented a volunteer award during a luncheon tomorrow. 1



LIBERTY TRAIL RIDE

Local community members take part in the Liberty Trail Ride in Normandy, France, coinciding with the D-Day anniversary. 17



Wiesbaden marks transformation milestones

By Karl Weisel

USAG WIESBADEN PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

It was a grand celebration shared by honorees, German and American military and civilian leaders, the first family to move into Newman Village and those who dedicated the past several years to transforming the Wiesbaden military community.

June 14, the Army's 237th Birthday, marked the naming of two preeminent new

and old landmarks – the General John Shalikashvili Mission Command Center and Gen. Lucius D. Clay Kaserne – and the opening of the new 326-unit Newman Village housing area.

"Together, we've laid a new foundation for the future," said Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling, U.S. Army Europe commander, praising the decades of German-American friendship and close cooperation of those involved in bringing

the future home of U.S. Army Europe in Wiesbaden to fruition.

"Every building has a story; just ask the people who built it, or the people who conceived the project, or those who hope to be served by it in the future," Hertling said. "If you were to talk to the thousands of people who played a role in bringing this building to life, you would hear thousands of different stories of what happened here."

More than two years



Karl Weisel

Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling, U.S. Army Europe commander, talks about the legacy of Gen. John M.D. Shalikashvili, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, during the dedication of the General John Shalikashvili Mission Command Center on Wiesbaden's Clay Kaserne June 14.

in construction, the new "Shali Center," of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who was born in Poland and served the former chairman see **WIESBADEN** page 13



Staff Sgt. Michael J. Taylor

Pfc. Matthew Curran, an ammunition specialist with 23rd Ordnance Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, passes a case of ammunition to a Marine during an ammunition distribution on the Camp Adazi training grounds in Latvia Friday. See full story page 13.

Kaiserslautern based Soldiers lend support to Saber Strike

By Staff Sgt. Michael J. Taylor
21ST TSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 21st Theater Sustainment Command, based in Kaiserslautern, is providing the bulk of logistical support for the U.S. Army Europe-led, multi-national training exercise Saber Strike 2012, taking place here through June Friday.

The command is tasked with providing the wide variety of expert and professional logistics support needed to meet the demands of a field training exercise with about 1,300 participating Soldiers from five different partner nations.

The 21st TSC deployed much of its Special Troops Battalion along with functional providers from several subordinate units to Camp Adazi, Latvia, to run the operational element, known as the mayor cell, for Saber Strike, thus accomplishing that

see **SABER** page 13

Defense Details

DEDICATED DUTY

"The pursuit of equality is fundamental to the American story," Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta said in a video message released Friday to thank gay and lesbian service members and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civilians for their dedicated service to the nation. Recognizing June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month, the secretary also thanked the families of gay and lesbian service members and LGBT civilians. Diversity is one of the department's greatest strengths, the secretary noted. "During Pride Month, and every month, let us celebrate our rich diversity and renew our enduring commitment to equality for all," he said. In his video message, Panetta emphasized the military's diversity. "The successful repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' proved to the nation that, just like the country we defend, we share different backgrounds, different values and different beliefs," he said. "But together we form the greatest military force in the world." Integrity and respect are the cornerstones of military culture, the secretary added.

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

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SAFETY MESSAGE

Summertime scams target American travelers

U.S. Army Europe officials warn of two common scams that are heating up with the summer months

By Robert Szostek
USAREUR PROVOST MARSHAL OFFICE

Travelers can run into bad luck while they are on the road and become legitimate candidates for charity.

Unfortunately, others are simply up to no good, warn officials at the U.S. Army Europe Office of the Provost Marshal.

"With the onset of summer, we again expect to see cases of people trying to defraud Americans while traveling in Europe," said Patrick MacKenzie, USAREUR OPM law enforcement chief.

Officials said one type of common scam involves someone in a vehicle flagging down other vehicles to get money by falsely claiming to need help.

This kind of approach often happens close to a barracks gate, at a highway rest stop or on a road outside a town where vehicles must move slowly.

Sometimes the scammers offer drivers what appears to be gold jewelry as "collateral" so they can pay a "loan" back later, OPM officials said, but the rings and chains usually turn out to be worthless brass imitations.

Officials warned of a second scam that involves a con artist stopping an intended victim and claiming to have

run out of money at a trade fair.

The scammer then offers to sell the victim his expensive goods – often jackets or coats – at a huge discount so he can buy gas to get home. But the fancy brand-name articles are nothing but cheap fakes.

To avoid being scammed, MacKenzie recommends members of the U.S. forces community in Europe keep these tips in mind:

- Beware of distractions if you are in your car alone. Someone talking to you on the driver's side of the car could be trying to divert your attention while a buddy steals your purse or wallet from the other side.

- Offers that sound too good to be true, usually are. Articles with fancy brand names and gold jewelry are most likely cheap imitations.

- Always consider the relationship between the trouble a person claims he is in and what he is asking for. People in real need rarely ask for more than what is absolutely necessary.

- Never give large amounts of money to anyone on the road. The most anyone should need is enough to fill a tank with gas.

Officials also noted that the German automobile association, Allgemeiner Deutscher Automobil-Club e.V., reports that travelers should also be



aware that in some regions gangs may be involved in trying to scam motorists on main highways.

The crooks, they say, generally drive large, dark sedans and try to get drivers to stop with hand gestures, flashing lights or a raised gas container.

When their victim stops, they demand financial help for their families or try to sell fake jewelry.

If the victim gives up little or no cash, the solicitation can turn into a robbery. ADAC advises drivers who encounter such situations to not stop, but continue driving.

Anyone approached in this manner should write down the person's license plate number and contact the nearest military or civil police station, MacKenzie advised.



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

"Did anyone attend the Army Birthday ball June 14 ... in Heidelberg? How did you enjoy it?"

– BWnow Administrator

"We attended and it was marvelous. The Army Band and Chorus gave an outstanding performance."

– Kathryn Bailey, BWnow Facebook Fan

"Wish someone would have invited me. Would have

enjoyed it! I know the military balls are great; been to two balls so far."

– Saskia Meinhardt, BWnow Facebook Fan

"Although I was part of the color guard, I was still able to enjoy it, and I did very much."

– Joi Friend, BWnow Facebook Fan

"Loved the performance! Great job from Color Guard,

vintage uniforms, band and performers! Thanks for a great evening!"

– Paula Mier Martinez, BWnow Facebook Fan

"Community 4th of July celebration 4- 11 p.m. at Patrick Henry Village Park (next to library) in Heidelberg. Enjoy food, games, live music and fireworks."

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

Riders, rev your engines: Garrison set to host final motorcycle training day for community

By Elizabeth Behring
USAG BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Pre-registration is open for the third annual – and final – U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Motorcycle Safety Day and River Ride scheduled for June 29 and leaving from the Heidelberg Army Airfield.

On-site registration begins 7:30 a.m. Riders and any passengers may enter HAAF through the back gate. The day's agenda includes a guest speaker, practical skills training, German police question and answers period and the river ride (rain or shine) starting about 12:15 p.m.

In the event of a heavy downpour, organizers say they may delay or postpone the ride.

A barbecue with a la carte items will be provided by members of the U.S. Army Europe Headquarters Support Company's Family Readiness Group starting about 3:45 p.m. at the Rod and Gun Club in Oftersheim.

While the biggest draw of the day is the 3-hour ride along the banks of the Neckar River and through the back hills of Heidelberg, the main focus is on motorcycle training, said USAG Baden-Württemberg Safety Specialist Herbert Keilmann.

"The Army has lots of fatalities in regard to people riding motorcycles. We are providing this opportunity so we can reduce motorcycle fatalities."

According to data compiled through March 2012 by the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center at Fort Rucker, Ala., of the 37 vehicle-related accidents involving Soldiers, 12 of 13 motorcycle-involved accidents resulted in death.

According to Keilmann, the Garrison has not had any motorcycle-attributed fatalities in the past few years, and he would like the statistics to stay that way.

Good weather sees an increase in riders swapping their four wheeled cars for two-wheeled bikes to get back and forth to work, to run errands or

simply to enjoy the sunshine.

"We are moving around in traffic environments, so we are exposed to accidental situations that may occur," Keilmann said.

And even experienced riders can face events beyond their control, he added. That's where the practical skills session comes in.

"[We do] training in the morning, with several exercises that are taught by the motorcycle trainers we have here in the Heidelberg community. I believe it's effective," Keilmann said.

"In the afternoon, we have a so-called practical skills ride, to give more of a hands-on chance to practice what they learned – and of course, it's a good ride," he added. "It [also] gives them hands-on and if they are riding in groups in some other event, they are also taught how to ride in groups," he added.

Riders must have all required protective gear, including shoes or boots,

helmet and reflective clothing to remain as easily visible as possible.

A current motorcycle license, Motorcycle Safety Foundation training documentation and prior experience are required.

Last year more than 60 riders participated in the event and organizers look forward to a larger turnout this time.

There is no fee for the ride, but those who want a box lunch must pay \$6.

For route map and additional information, call the USAG Baden-Württemberg safety office at DSN 373-5277, civ. 06221-17-5277.

To register visit http://www.fight-the-risk.army.mil/Events/Heidelberg_Motorcycle%20Rally/HDGMCRIDE.htm.

For more information about the Army's safety program, including a link to the German campaign website, Risiko Raus, visit www.fight-the-risk.army.mil.

Belgian military community hosts farewell concert

By Peter J. Gonzales
USAG BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG PUBLIC AFFAIRS VOLUNTEER



Yves Segers, conductor of the Royal Symphonic Band of the Belgian Guides, directs the band through a performance at the Heidelberg Kongresshaus Thursday.

The Heidelberg military community is experiencing a series of "lasts" due to ongoing transformation efforts across Europe.

Often when transition such as this takes place there is an atmosphere of melancholy at the passing of an era.

The Royal Symphonic Band of the Belgian Guides performance Thursday at the Heidelberg Kongresshaus featured none of that.

The feeling instead was of celebration and fraternity between the Belgian military and the local community.

The Belgian contingent, under the guidance of Maj. Gen. Hubert De Vos, senior Belgian representative, hosted the event.

De Vos opened the celebration with a speech thanking those who helped make the event possible. He pointed out that this concert would serve as a farewell to the community as the contingent would be leaving after fifty years in the city, due to NATO's restructuring.

"This concert is intended as a token of thanks to the city of Heidelberg and its neighboring communities," De Vos said as he praised the community for extending such a warm welcome to the soldiers and their families for over half a century. "We really lost our hearts in Heidelberg and therefore we don't say goodbye but farewell."

He went on to explain the concert's focus was to share with the guests a piece of Belgian military culture.

Following his speech, the orchestra performed a rendition of "Lied der Deutschen" before moving on to "Brahms Academic Festival Overture."

Under the direction of Yves Segers the band performed selections by Mozart, Tchaikovsky and Puccini.

Guest soloist Eva Leberherz Valentin, noted soprano and Heidelberg resident, performed a moving aria in both sets.

The show closed with a rendition of Ravel's "Bolero," which in turn gave way to rousing performances of the Belgian military's heraldic tunes including the "March of the Second Regiment of the Guides."

The "March of the First Regiment of the Guides," the regiment to whom the orchestra falls in under, closed the official program as the audience applauded loudly. The band also played an encore featuring two more musical compositions.

The concert raised €3,000 which was presented to the mayor of Heidelberg and representatives from the Heidelberger Südstadt-Tafel Rat und Tat St. Elisabeth, a charitable organization helping low-income families in the area, following the show.

transformation UPDATE

Frequently Asked Questions

Have a transformation-related question you'd like answered?

E-mail usarmy.badenwuer.usag.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.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/news/personnel.htm.

NEW – "Why do I have to show a second form of identification whenever I go through the gate? Why isn't my military ID card enough to get onto the installation?"

As a general rule, the Installation Access Control System associated with military ID cards is secure and sufficient enough to control access to U.S. installations. This is why IACS is the primary access control method used. The system also provides basic security and convenience to the user. However, as with most things, it is not perfect. Individuals can find a lost ID card or steal ID cards and, if they resemble the ID card holder, gain access to a U.S. installation. There have also been cases of individuals loaning their ID cards to someone else in order to gain access to various places. Asking for a second form allows the Pond's contract security guards to take a closer look to ensure the person trying to gain access matches the ID card. Sometimes ID card holders have made changes to their physical appearance (hair color, facial hair, glasses, etc.) that may cause them to not look exactly like the photo on their ID card. Because IACS alone is not perfect, the garrison periodically employs more stringent access measures and anti-terrorism protections at all installations across United States Army Europe, usually on a random basis, but also when threats become more credible and require higher force protection conditions. Asking for a second form of photo ID is an example of that. Drivers are not picked specifically by the Pond's guard; he or she entered the installation at a time designated for this random access measure. Soldiers also have to produce a second form of ID when these random checks are in place. They are not exempt. The garrison works to balance security with the ability to get its Soldiers, civilians and family members on the installation in a timely fashion.

NEW – "Is the Wiesbaden Health Clinic going to have all the comprehensive services that the Heidelberg Clinic has or had at one point? For example, CT Scans, ultrasound services, emergency room, etc. If not, are families going to be expected to travel to the Kaiserslautern area?"

The Wiesbaden Clinic offers services for family practice, immunizations and allergy, pediatric and adolescent care, physical exams, physical therapy, optometry, behavioral health, social work services, educational and developmental intervention services, laboratory, radiology, pharmacy, community and public health, Tricare and the Soldier Medical Readiness Center. In addition to these services, there are also several quality health care services available on the local economy. Patient liaisons are in place to assist you and your family if you ever need to access them. Patient liaisons are bilingual and available 24/7. They can assist with medical translation needs while at a local hospital or medical facility. The Wiesbaden clinic has contact information posted in HSK and St. Joseph Hospitals in Wiesbaden (emergency room, ultrasounds). Wiesbaden Clinic Contact numbers are civ. 0162-270-7743 (after hours), civ. 0162-270-7746, civ. 0162-296-4200 and civ. 0162-297-1057. Wiesbaden Clinic hours are 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 7:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Tuesday. Call Central Appointments Booking and Cancellation at civ. 0611-705-6339, DSN 337-6339 or civ. 0611-705-6320, DSN 337-6320. Appointments can also be made online at www.Tricareonline.com.

Facilities Operations Changes Mannheim

NEW – **ACS** – The Army Community Service office located in Bldg. 246 on Sullivan Barracks is scheduled to close June 29.

Base Operations – For assistance, residents should contact Sgt. 1st Class Damien R. Hunt, who is now the Base Operations noncommissioned officer in charge located in Bldg. 245 on Sullivan Barracks, DSN 385-1610, civ. 0621-730-1610, civ. 07622-70-0535, damien.r.hunt.mil@mail.mil, or Bob Isbell, Mannheim Base Operations Manager, DSN

385-3944, civ. 0621-730-3944, robert.n.isbell2.civ@mail.mil.

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 scheduled to close **June 22**.

Burger King – The Mannheim Burger King located on Sullivan Barracks is scheduled to close **July 28**.

NEW – **Child Development Center** – The Child Development Center on Sullivan Barracks is scheduled to close **July 15**.

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

UPDATED – **Coleman Clinics** – The Coleman Troop Medical Clinic ended full patient care services **June 1**, to include pharmacy services. The clinic transitioned to sick call support **June 4**. In addition, all dental support at the Coleman Dental Clinic, to include dental sick call services, ended **May 1**. Dental services for the Mannheim-Coleman Soldier population have transferred to the Patrick Henry Village Dental Clinic in Heidelberg. The sick call sign-in hours at Coleman TMC are 8-9:30 a.m. Sick call service will be available until Sept. 1. 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 slated to remain open through August. 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 scheduled to close **June 29**.

NEW – **Customs** – The customs office (and military police substation) on Sullivan Barracks is scheduled to close **June 29**.

UPDATED – **Facility Closures** – The Commissary, Community Bank, Service Credit Union, the Top Hat Club, Woods Field, Army Community Service, the Value Added Tax office, the Child Development Center and the School Age 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.

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**.

NEW – **Sullivan Express** – The Sullivan Express store is scheduled to close **July 20**.

Tax Relief Office – The Tax Relief Office on Sullivan Barracks has the following hours: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, closed Tuesdays, Thursdays, weekends and U.S. holidays. DSN 385-1780, civ. 0621-730-1780.

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.badenwuer.usag.mbx.cpf@mail.mil.

The shuttle bus to the Frankfurt Airport - The shuttle bus service from Heidelberg Patrick Henry Village Guest House to Frankfurt Airport is no longer available. The cancellation of the service is a result of the implementation of the Patriot Express channel flights that depart Ramstein Air Base. DSN 370-8399, civ. 06221-57-8399.

NEW – **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.

UPDATED – **Chapels** – The Mark Twain Village chapel is now closed. 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.

Dental Clinic – The sick call and exam hours for the Patrick Henry Village dental clinic are now 8:30-10:30 a.m. Monday-Friday. DSN 388-9500.

NEW – **Health Center Shoppette** – The Exchange Shoppette located on Nachrichten Kaserne will close **July 28**.

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.

Pharmacy Hours – The Heidelberg Health Center Pharmacy has changed its operating hours. The pharmacy is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday and closed weekends and federal holidays.

Teen Clinic – The Teen Clinic at Heidelberg High School is closed. Teens can be seen at the Heidelberg Health Center. DSN 371-2622, civ. 0800-376-22273.

UPDATED – **Thrift Shop** – The Thrift Shop on Patrick Henry Village has relocated to Bldg. 4455 (directly across the street from the PHV Recycling Center and Outdoor Recreation Center).

18th Engineer Brigade headquarters redeploys



Family members prepare to photograph the entry of 18th Engineer Brigade Soldiers into the fitness center on Tompkins Barracks in Schwetzingen June 8 during the welcome home ceremony. The unit returned from a deployment to Afghanistan.



Mike Bowers

An 18th Engineer Brigade Soldier chats with greeters while holding his daughter during the welcome home ceremony held in the fitness center on Tompkins Barracks in Schwetzingen, June 8. The unit returned from a deployment to Afghanistan.

Unit coordinates, provides command, control during year-long deployment

By Mike Bowers
21ST TSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SCHWETZINGEN – Soldiers of the 18th Engineer Brigade, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, returned home to ear-piercing cheers from poster-waving family members June 8 during the welcome home ceremony held here in the Tompkins Barracks gymnasium.

The headquarters element returned after a year-long deployment to Afghanistan, where it coordinated and provided command and control to each of its six subordinate battalions.

"We're thrilled. It's great to be done with the mission, and it's great to be back in Germany," said Col. Paul M. Paolozzi, commander of the 18th Eng. Bde and a native of Utica, N.Y.

Paolozzi noted that of the more than 4,000 Soldiers within the brigade, it was only the headquarters that returned. Paolozzi said the unit went beyond accomplishing their deployment goals.

"We believe that we had a certain set or where the brigade was, or what it was as we arrived in Afghanistan. We

significantly changed that while we were there."

"We moved the brigade headquarters to a place where future brigades can have a better operational reach.

"We also made sure that all engineer efforts are coordinated and synchronized through the brigade headquarters for each one of the battalions," Paolozzi added.

While deployed, the unit's job involved working across Afghanistan, interacting with the Afghan National Army and performing route clearance and construction.

Part of the mission was to work with the partnership for the Afghan Army and to make sure that they're strong and capable for the future, Paolozzi said.

After landing at Ramstein Air Base, the Soldiers were bused to Schwetzingen, where family members and other well-wishers had gathered.

"It was a long bus ride," said Spc. Michael Janssen, a signal support system specialist.

"It was probably the longest hour bus ride I've had in a while . . . Now that I'm here, I'm glad it's over . . . It was a good deployment; everybody did what they were supposed to, and the mission was successful," said Janssen, a native of Sioux City, Iowa.

Staff Sgt. Dexter Walter, geospatial section, said he was glad to be back with his family, as he stood clutching his two-year-old daughter, Lillian, with his wife, Paris, at his side.

"I'm thankful to get back safe, which was the focal point the whole time," Walter said. "My priority now is dinner with the family and getting ready for a permanent change of station move to Hawaii."



Mike Bowers

Soldiers of the 18th Engineer Brigade salute during the playing of the national anthem during their welcome home ceremony in the fitness center on Tompkins Barracks in Schwetzingen, June 8. The unit returned from deployment in Afghanistan.

Spc. Lee Easton and Spc. Paul Ulmer, assigned to the brigade's military intelligence section, both looked forward to showers and civilian clothes.

"It feels great and a relief to be back," Easton said. "It seems pretty surreal and going to take a while to settle in."

"Shower, sleep and get out of this," Ulmer said, pointing to his uniform.

"It's been a while since we've had a shower and good night's sleep," he added.

Sgt. Maj. Perry Ledbetter, supply sergeant major and a native of Bennettsville, S.C., said the unit did more than accomplish the mission.

"We went much beyond to make sure everything was set up for the new unit that came and took over. It feels great to be back. My goal is to travel, see more of Germany and Europe, [enjoy] the family and catch up."

"I think for the unit, it's quick rest and recuperation and taking some time to be with their families and enjoy just the reintegration schedule," Paolozzi said.

"And then I think everyone's got their own individual plans and just taking some leave time and then, quickly after that, we will be moving the brigade headquarters to Schweinfurt, Germany."

Family Readiness Group leaders sharpen skills

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

SEMBACH – Establishing esprit de corps, providing support to military families and promoting a positive outlook are just a few reasons why family readiness groups are critical to Soldiers, families and military organizations.

Members of family readiness groups from the 18th Military Police Brigade held a forum May 22-23 in several locations in the Kaiserslautern Military Community to talk about day-to-day issues they face as FRG leaders.

"The forum was held to bring all the FRG leaders together to share experiences and give a wider range of ideas," said Katrina Sieber, 709th MP Battalion's family readiness support assistant.

The forum was also an introduction to new leaders, who discussed topics like command sponsorship, fundraising and recruiting new volunteers.

"FRG leaders brought examples of the different packets to help out new spouses and website addresses to send incoming Soldiers before permanent

change of station," Sieber said.

During the forum, the FRG members had the opportunity to take tours of Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and the Ramstein passenger terminal.

Some even tackled obstacles at a local high-ropes course.

"The ropes course was amazing," said Sandy Gurney, the 615th MP Company FRG leader.

"Everybody got out there and had a great time. Everyone came together and encouraged each other," said Janine Smith, the 95th MP Bn. FRSA.

"The tours were great also. I learned a great deal at the passenger terminal," Gurney said.

"Learning how things work and each process will help tremendously when giving information to new spouses," she added.

FRGs foster resilient families, while providing accurate command information and continuously discovers ways to effectively use community resources.

Promoting confidence, helping families cope with deployments and providing a support network for families are imperative features of a



Staff Sgt. Tramel Garrett

Leaders of family readiness groups from the 18th Military Police Brigade encourage each other during an obstacle course May 23 in Kaiserslautern. The course was the culminating event during a two-day FRG forum held at various Kaiserslautern Military Community locations.

great FRG program.

"The FRG is a critical asset in a unit, as they keep Soldiers and family members informed during peacetime and crisis situations," said Jonathan Doyle, the deputy commander of the

18th MP Bde.

"Having a strong FRG with a dynamic leader who ties in to the company commander and senior enlisted advisor is critical to a fully functioning organization," Doyle said.

Girl, Boy Scouts bid Mannheim farewell after 56 years

By Katja Pinkston
USAG BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG PUBLIC AFFAIRS VOLUNTEER

Mannheim Boy and Girl Scout troops ended their 56 years of service in the community during a closing ceremony June 9.

"It's always hard to leave a community, but as you can see, the Scouting program remained strong as everything closed around us," said John Little, who has served as Assistant Scoutmaster for three years and is now the Scoutmaster of Troop 137.

"Just look at the number of Scouts we have in attendance today here, as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and as the Cub Scouts of Mannheim," Little added.

Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 1 from Heidelberg, Randall Campbell, reminded the Scouts that they will take their experiences and traits with them.

"We're all going through a transition. This is the closing today of the Scouting community in Mannheim, but it is not the closing of scouting in our hearts," Campbell said.

"The lessons you have learned for both parents and Scouts, you will carry with you throughout all your life," he added.

During the past two years, seven boys of Troop 137 became Eagle Scouts, with Noah Kiakona being the last Scout to attain this rank in February.

Caity Roos, Katherine Chipps and Emily Chipps are pending approval to get their Gold Level Award, which is the Girl Scout equivalent to the Eagle Scout Award.

"I could not be any more proud of the Mannheim Girl Scouts. To my knowledge, this community has never had any girls achieve the highest level and get the Gold Award, so this is very special," said Janet Roos, Registrar for the Overseas Committee Team.

The Girl Scouts celebrates its 100th anniversary



Katja Pinkston

Abigail Chipps, Lucas Balsimo and Ben Paller light red, white and blue candles at the closing ceremony of the Girl Scout and Boy Scout programs in Mannheim June 9 while other Scouts look on. The Scout program had a presence in the Mannheim community for 56 years.

this year, since Juliette Gordon Low organized the first Girl Scout troop in Savannah, Ga. At the American Legion Convention in 1919, the organization decided to charter Boy Scouts. Troop 137 came to Mannheim in 1997 after the closure of the military community in Worms, explained John Gerdeman, an ambassador for the American Legion.

"I am very sad to close this troop, because the American Legion has been with Scouting for so long. "But don't quit because the troop is closing.

Continue the trail to Eagle. You get experience in doing so, meet friends and have a good time," Gerdeman said.

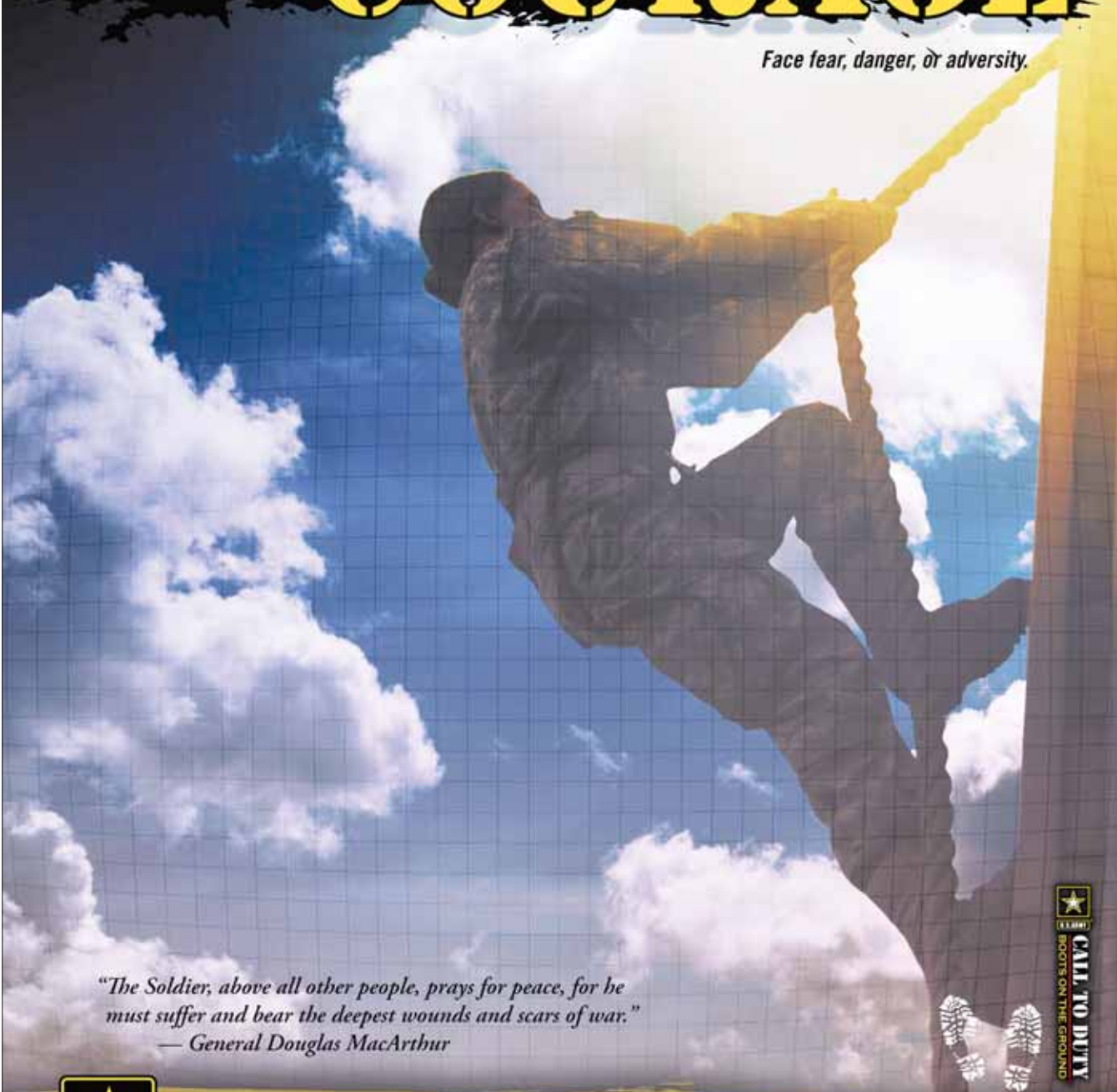
At the end, Little encouraged the Girl and Boy Scouts to remain Mannheim Scouts wherever their paths may take them.

"It is on your merit badges, it's on the cards, it's on the advancements, it's in the Scouting books, no matter what troop or pack you will continue with," Little said.

PERSONAL

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"The Soldier, above all other people, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war."
 — General Douglas MacArthur

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Spc. Lorenzo Ware

Spc. Parminderjeetsingh Virk, right, with the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, and an Albanian soldier take part in an assault training exercise during the Immediate Response 2012 training event in Slunj, Croatia, June 6.



Staff Sgt Sun L. Vega

Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, joined The Honorable John M. McHugh, Secretary of the Army, and Gen. Lloyd Austin, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army to celebrate the Army's 237th birthday at a cake cutting ceremony in the Pentagon Courtyard in Washington, D.C., June 14.



Sgt. Christopher M. Gaylord

Pvt. Jaime Medina right, a medic with 702nd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, and a Soldier augmenting the battalion, treat a simulated casualty June 12 at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., during a mass casualty exercise.



Sgt. Christopher Vann

Special operations forces participate in the physical training portion of Fuerzas Commando 2012 at the Colombian National Training Center in Tolemaida, Colombia, June 6.



U.S. Army

UH-60 Black Hawks land to pick up Soldiers assigned to A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field, Artillery Regiment, Task Force 4-25, outside of Loy Murghoz, Khowst province, Afghanistan, June 8.

Family honored with volunteer award

By Capt. Charles Patterson
30TH MEDCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A medic and his family have been named the 2012 Association of the United States Army Europe Department Volunteer Family for their efforts in helping Soldiers and various family programs in their Heidelberg community.

Sgt. 1st Class Marvin Williams and his wife Jamie – along with their children – will be presented the award tomorrow during a luncheon hosted by the AUSA Gen. Creighton W. Abrams Chapter.

“We started our family young and probably wouldn’t be here today without others’ help,” admitted Jamie.

“A military community can’t function without volunteers.”

Since 2009, the Williams family has volunteered in family readiness at Headquarters Company, 30th Medical Command; coached and assisted multiple sports in the Heidelberg area for children and helped organize U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg community events.

Jamie also received the Gold

Presidential Service Award for her more than 500 hours of volunteer service, an award presented last month by USAREUR Deputy Commander, Maj. Gen. James C. Boozer.

“Her parents instilled this in her,” Marvin said, referring to Jamie.

“Our kids are growing up in the same way.” We don’t think about the results; we just like to do it, he added.

Jamie and Marvin explained that giving back to their community is not seen as a chore or additional duty, but as an outlet and a way to share family time.

“I don’t think of it as taking away from family – bring your kids there – it’s a shared experience,” Jamie said.

Both work full time, one in uniform, one as a civilian. Their children also participate in the family practice of helping mom and dad around the community.

“I think the younger you are to being exposed to it, the less of a burden it is when you’re older,” Jamie said, reflecting on how volunteering with her parents as a child became her routine as an adult.

“[The kids] understand



Capt. Charles Patterson

Jamie Williams, alongside her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Marvin Williams, both Tacoma, Wash. natives, receives the Gold Presidential Service Award from U.S. Army Europe Deputy Commander, Maj. Gen. James C. Boozer at Nachrichten Kaserne, May 2, for more than 500 hours of volunteer service. The Williams family has been named the 2012 Association of the United States Army Europe Department Volunteer Family for their efforts in helping Soldiers and various family programs in their Heidelberg community.

that when we need help, they know it’s time to help,” Marvin said.

“I think a lot of the skills you get volunteering are something that can help you professionally, too,” Jamie said.

Many volunteers serve in military communities around

the world. Working toward a goal and motivating people are marketable skills that are recognized by the U.S. Army, which counts selfless service as one of its seven Army Values.

Recognition of this value extends beyond an award. “Everybody needs to feel

appreciated,” Jamie said.

The Williams’ packet has gone to the AUSA headquarters in Arlington, Va., to compete with other regions around the world.

One packet will be selected for the AUSA Volunteer Family of the Year award later this year.

Army Family Action Plan delegates prioritize top issues

By Staff Sgt. Brooks Fletcher
USAREUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

“You must be the change you wish to see,” said Col. Anthony Haager, Installation Management Command-Europe Deputy Regional Director, referencing a quote by Mahatma Gandhi. “... That’s what you all are doing here.”

Quality of life issues from U.S. Army in Europe communities were selected to move forward for further review, concluding the 2012 U.S. Army Europe mid-level Army Family Action Plan conference, June 7.

During the conference, a 16-delegate committee comprised of active duty Soldiers, family members, civilian employees and retirees, tackled and discussed the 26 top issues, including:

- Meal card holders’ basic allowance for subsistence entitlement
- Sexual orientation as a protected category under Equal Opportunity
- Portability of benefit from non-appropriated funds to appropriated fund positions for Department of Army civilian employees
- Department of Defense Education

Activity high school credit for sports participation

• Sexual assault restricted reporting option for diversity advisory councils
“The importance of this conference is just hearing what the Army family has to say about certain issues prioritized by the garrison communities,” said AFAP conference coordinator Jennifer Murphy, USAREUR G-1.

AFAP, an Army Community Service program, allows members of the community the opportunity to raise issues that impact their quality of life.

AFAP issues from the field provide a snapshot of the well-being concerns of Soldiers and families. The program aims to improve standards of living for Soldiers, families, military personnel and Department of Defense employees.

Master Sgt. Carl Carbin, from NATO Headquarters in Chievres, Belgium, was a first-time AFAP delegate and participant. He was introduced to AFAP by his wife and said he believes having a Soldier on the committee is important to the delegation of issues.

“It’s important that this program receives insight from a Soldier’s per-

spective,” Carbin said.

“In any organization, you want feedback on what’s going on at the ground level, from the people that experience it firsthand. It allows the leadership to have eyes on what’s going on in its command.”

Haager echoed this exact sentiment. “Grassroot action is something that Americans get excited about. Creating change from the bottom up is in the DNA of every American and look at where we are today,” he explained.

The committee ensured all issues were addressed and discussed.

Claudia Adolph, an Army spouse from 414th Contracting Brigade out of Vicenza, said that anything that gets her more involved in the Army family is important to her.

“If people don’t voice their opinion, leadership will not be made aware and issues will not [be] resolved or changed,” Adolph said.

“It’s all about quality of life for the Soldier and family,” she added.

Many benefits that are available to Soldiers, family members and DA civilians came as a direct result of this AFAP conference.

“It has changed our military way of life. There have been so many things that have come out of AFAP,” said Daine Isla, a volunteer with ACS Kaiserslautern, regarding previous AFAP issues like thrift savings plan, G.I. Bill transfers and paternity leave.

“Now that the conference is a well-oiled machine, you can see that the issues are more specific, which means [AFAP] is evolving.”

Issues considered for further review will be presented to USAREUR leadership during an executive steering committee this fall.

“Ultimately, these issues and concerns have the potential of going to the conference at HQDA and be seen by the vice chief of staff of the Army. That is a big deal,” Murphy added.

Haager challenged delegates to continue to be leaders of their communities.

“Your time and energy is so important, because AFAP is not something that happens two days out of the year, it happens every day.

“We all have a stake in the world we live in and you are all part of a very powerful process,” Haager said.

PLAY IT SAFE

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SABER

continued from page 1

formidable task. With nearly 60 Soldiers working around the clock in the mayor cell, the 21st TSC is assisting in the exercise by providing or coordinating everything dealing with life support from fuel, ammo, communications, rations and transportation to laundry services, billeting, finance, maintenance and medical support to more than 550 service members from more than 10 different military units, to include members of the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps. "The mission of the 21st TSC here is to provide all the logistical support to the service members who are participating in Exercise Saber Strike 2012," said Capt. Eunice H. Sorrell, the company commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 21st STB and a Seattle native.

"It's an incredible feeling to know that because of our support, the U.S. Forces that we're providing logistics

for can go out and train and take part in training without any worries that they are taken care of with all their life support needs," Sorrell said.

Another capability that the 21st TSC is providing is real-world security analysis and force protection measures. The force protection's job is to ensure U.S. forces and military equipment are secure and that personnel are aware of their surroundings and the threat level in the local areas.

"Our job here is important because all the military assets here are far away from their home stations, regardless of whether we live in the States or in Germany," said Staff Sgt. David P. Miller, the force protection and anti-terrorism non-commissioned officer for the exercise control cell and a native of Monterey, Calif.

"We don't want service members getting complacent and expecting things to be the same as they are at their home bases, so it is our job to ensure that proper security measures are taken and force protection procedures

are implemented," Miller said.

"I think taking part in this exercise is a great opportunity, and it's good to see all the nations come together and train with one goal in mind – making our world a safer place," Miller said. "And I am glad to be able to do my job and in turn, keep them safe while they train."

In order to plan for an exercise of this stature, members of the 21st TSC started preparing more than three months in advance.

Three weeks prior to the mission, meetings were held two times and in some cases, three times a week to ensure everyone participating in the exercise was on the same page.

The 21st TSC started deploying its support personnel May 31, prior to the exercise beginning June 11, and will remain in Latvia well after the exercise end date.

"I think that the Soldiers here have done an outstanding job supporting our warfighters while they train," said Sgt. 1st Class David M. Miron, an

electronic maintenance supervisor for the 21st STB and a native of Dearborn, Mich. "I'm proud of each and every one of them, and it's because of our support personnel that this mission is a success," Miron added.

Saber Strike 2012 is a multi-national, tactical field training exercise that involves more than 2,000 personnel from the U.S. Army's 2nd Cavalry Regiment, Pennsylvania National Guard, 21st TSC, the 4th U.S. Marine Division and the 127th Wing of the Michigan Air National Guard.

In addition, Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian armed forces, with contingents from Canada, Finland, France and the United Kingdom, provided support.

The exercise, led by members of U.S. Army Europe, is designed to enhance joint and combined interoperability between the U.S. Army and partner nations, and help prepare participants to operate successfully in a joint, multi-national, interagency, integrated environment.

WIESBADEN

continued from page 1

many years in U.S. Army Europe, will play a vital role in future operations, Hertling said.

"As you will soon walk through the halls of the 'Shali Center,' think about what you are seeing – think about the future," he said, describing the strengthening relationships of partners working "side by side," the "operations that will be planned to bring relief to populations around the world from tyranny or natural disasters" and the importance of Soldier and civilian partners serving together to neutralize future threats.

Pointing out how the Army has transformed in Europe from the end of the Cold War through the present – from more than 200,000 Soldiers on hundreds of different installations to a projected 30,000 Soldiers in "seven remaining communities by 2015," USAREUR's commanding general said, "USAREUR has become an organization which is all muscle, no fat, and we partner with our European allies to build forces that fight above our weight class. We do that through training, exercises, exchanges and by building trust."

Hertling was joined by Joan Shalikashvili, the 38-year veteran's widow, in unveiling the new center.

But before the unveiling and guests getting a look at the interior of the 285,000-square-foot facility, they witnessed the day's two other milestones.

On monitors in place at the Shali Center, guests were able to watch as Col. David Carstens, U.S. Army

Garrison Wiesbaden commander, was joined by special guests at the front gate of Wiesbaden Army Airfield in uncovering the new sign dedicating the installation to General Lucius D. Clay and handing over the keys to the first Army Family to move into Newman Housing.

"In a very real sense, he was the father of a free West Germany," Carstens said, detailing the vital role Clay played in the crucial years following World War II as military governor of the U.S. Zone, helping launch West Germany's Constitution and feed Berlin's citizens during the Soviet Blockade and later during the Berlin Crisis in 1961.

USAG Wiesbaden's commander was joined by Clay's grandchildren Cathleen Ketcham and Dr. Lucius D. Clay III, in the unveiling ceremony. He noted that Ketcham attended military dependent schools in Germany and now resides in Germantown, Md., – yet another connection between the two nations.

The opening of Newman Village, named in honor of Col. James R. Newman, the military administrator of Hesse in post-World War II Germany "who worked vigorously to assist in rebuilding the German civilian government and the German economy," marked a milestone in the construction of the new \$133 million housing area.

Like USAREUR's new Mission Command Center, Clay Kaserne housing area was designed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District to exceed strict German energy standards and to be extremely environmentally friendly.

"With the opening of the Newman Village, we are not just opening better quality housing, we are signaling a choice to remain strong partners with our German hosts not only today, but into the future," said Kathleen Marin, Installation Management Command-Europe director.

"As the Installation Management Command-Europe director, I don't see houses before us, I see homes," Marin said in welcoming Newman Village's first residents – Sgt. Robert Tickle, wife Katherine and their children Jordan, Riley and Matthew.

"Today your family stands for all the families who will feel at home here in Newman Village in the state of Hessen," said Elmar Damm, Hessen State Assets, Construction and Facilities Management chief, thanking all the engineers, construction crews and others who ensured the housing area was built in record time and to high standards.

Among the guests on hand to celebrate Newman Village's opening were members of Dr. (Maj.) Thomas Broer's family. Broer, one of four German soldiers killed on April 15, 2010, while serving with NATO forces in Afghanistan. Broer was honored with a street designation in the new housing area.

USAREUR's commander presented the doctor's mother, Angelika, with a special commemorative plaque during the event.

Throughout the ceremony speakers noted the rich history of the area uncovered during the construction project, thanks to the dedicated efforts

of German and American volunteers and archaeologists who spent many months sifting through soil to uncover Roman and Celtic relics.

"Normally this leads to construction delays," said Wiesbaden Lord Mayor Helmut Müller, "but in this case it was different.

With German-American cooperation, the excavations were exposed. A multitude of Americans offered their help and assisted in moving the excavations forward quickly," he said.

Streets and locations in Newman Village pay tribute to these early warriors who long ago served on the same soil and to German and American veterans who served with distinction. The move of USAREUR headquarters from Heidelberg to Wiesbaden is expected to be completed by the fall of 2013.

At that time, the Wiesbaden military community's population is expected to increase to about 18,500 people, including Soldiers, family members, civilians and retirees.

Other upcoming transformation-related projects on Clay Kaserne include the construction of a \$91 million Consolidated Intelligence Center, planned to start this fall, and a \$30.4 million Information Processing Center.

When transformation is completed and installations are closed in Heidelberg, Mannheim and Darmstadt, Army officials expect to save about \$112 million annually in operating costs.

GERMAN NEWS

Authorities To Sue 'Lying Dutchman'

Berlin's youth welfare office is planning to sue Robin van Helsum, the Dutch 20-year-old who threw himself at their mercy last year, spinning a tale of living rough in the forest with his father. Van Helsum was forced to leave the care home in Berlin Monday, which had assumed he was a minor. He lived there at the taxpayer's expense ten months, at a reported cost of €30,000, including €140 pocket money a month. "We will file a suit for fraudulent appropriation of youth benefits during the course of the week," Ed Koch, spokesman for the district youth welfare office, told Berlin's B.Z. newspaper. "We're going to demand this money back. Whether we ever see it again, we don't know." Van Helsum showed up at Berlin's town hall last September claiming he was a 17-year-old named Ray, and had been living for the past five years in the forest with his father. He claimed his father had died in the forest and left him instructions to walk north until he found civilization. It was only when police persuaded him to allow them to release a photo of him earlier this month that van Helsum was identified by family and friends in the Netherlands, and the true story began to emerge: he had disappeared from his hometown last September, and his father had been alive at the time, though he has since died. Further details about van Helsum's past have also emerged. His former roommate told the Berliner Zeitung that he had been a normal young man, but had been showed signs of being bored and depressed with his life shortly before his disappearance. He also reportedly has a 2-year-old son.

Teachers May Pay To Park

Cologne authorities are bracing themselves for a telling-off after suggesting teachers pay up to €50 a month to park their cars at school, it was reported Monday. In a desperate grab for cash, the city council believes the measure could raise €100,000 a year. Officials say other public sector employees have to pay to park at their places of work, and imposing similar charges on teachers would be fair. Authorities are also considering providing reduced public transport fees. If the initiative is approved, the charges could be levied starting next year. Before the charges can be enforced, though, the city would have to spend a considerable amount to outfit parking lots with the necessary technology.

SOURCE: www.thelocal.de



DEAR MS. Vicki

Vicki Johnson is a military spouse and clinical social worker with more than 13 years experience working with families in crisis. Contact Ms. Vicki by e-mail: dearmsvicki@yahoo.com, follow her on Twitter @[dearmsvicki](https://twitter.com/dearmsvicki), or visit www.dearmsvicki.com.

Dear Ms. Vicki,

My husband returned from his third deployment four months ago. I think he is suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. He thinks so, too. He is not suicidal or anything, but he has a very short temper. We have a 4-year-old and a 15-month-old. He doesn't want counseling for himself, but we need to do something. Do you have any suggestions?

Army Wife

Dear Army Wife,

There is no way to truly answer this question without professional help. Your husband has to look at it two-fold: it's for his benefit, and it is beneficial to his family. He is not weak for seeking services, and it won't adversely affect his career. It's something he must do.

You and the children can be involved in the process, because everyone could learn, and you can support your husband.

I'm not sure if you live near a military facility, but you could start by making an appointment with his primary care physician.

He should simply tell the doctor about his symptoms, and referrals to other specialty clinics and services can be made. You could also call behavioral health services and ask about the services they provide and if they have walk-in appointments.

It may not be PTSD; it could be combat stress symptoms or adjustment problems. However, he won't know unless he seeks services. Please let me know what he decides to do.

Dear Ms. Vicki,

My husband and I are both active duty and have each spent 10 years in the Army in very different units. He's deployed two times. In September, it will be three times, this time for 15 months. I cannot pretend to imagine what it's like for him to deploy for such a long time and so often.

However, like many marriages, we are having problems. He is pushing me away and is doing more with his friends and planning trips that do not include me or our 3-year-old daughter. I want to spend time with him, but when I suggest saying, going to the pool, he says he's not interested. I ask him to go grocery shopping, but again I get a no, that's for the woman to do. By the time I get home, he's gone to a friend's house.

I want to be with him, but I cannot make him understand that

I'm not trying to boss him or control him.

I'm simply trying to get us to do things together as a family before he goes away.

How can I get this man to not only appreciate us as a family, but to want to spend time with us as well?

From A Couple in Need of Help
Dear Couple,

Thanks for sharing your story. I'm not sure what's going on with your husband, but I must say I think you are in a tough situation. From your report, he wants to go out and have a good time, but he doesn't want to spend time with you. Most reports I get are from spouses who say they can't get their husband or wife to go out, have fun or do anything. I won't try to read too much into his actions and cause alarm.

However, I am concerned, because he knows he is leaving soon for a long deployment. He should also know that now is the time to try to build a solid relationship with his wife and family. Instead, he is choosing to go out with friends and not spend time with you.

I will give him the benefit of the doubt, and I advise you to continue to discuss your desire to reconnect with him before this deployment. This is crucial if your marriage is to survive. Solicit help from trusted family and friends, and consider marital or couples counseling if he will consent.

I will send you some resources for counseling options. Most importantly, you have to continue to take care of yourself. I know this is tough. Hang in there and keep me posted.

More than 200 graduate with Master degrees

By **Rose Petrunyak**

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA, EUROPE

The University of Oklahoma honored its master's degree recipients at the 19th annual graduate recognition ceremony June 2 at the Village Pavilion Community Center on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg.

OU recognized more than 200 graduates throughout the European military community who completed master's degrees during the fall 2011, spring 2012 or summer 2012 semesters. Thirty-six graduates traveled to Heidelberg to participate in the ceremony.

Guests from the military and educational communities, including representatives from OU's Norman, Okla., campus, were present to honor the graduates.

The ceremony featured addresses from Lee Williams, Ph.D., Dean of the Graduate College of the University of Oklahoma, and Tucker Axum, a Masters of Human Relations recipient and resident of Naples, Italy. Both speeches focused on the diversity and wide range of unique life experiences

of military learners in Europe.

Williams said he enjoyed flying from Oklahoma to participate in the ceremony.

"I am always impressed at the quality and dedication of our AP [Advanced Program] students and how they complete their degrees in a timely manner despite their heavy military responsibilities and demanding work and deployment schedules."

The Heidelberg ceremony is a highlight of the year for graduates and OU staff alike.

Ceremonies are also held at more remote sites to ensure all graduates are given a chance to celebrate their life-changing accomplishments.

OU Europe Director Peggy Lerner, Ph.D., said in a recent ceremony address in Naples, Italy, "I am here to share OU's pride in your accomplishments and bring you greetings from your community of scholars in Oklahoma, because we are all members of that special community, wherever we are in the world.

"And wherever we go in this world, we take a bit of that community with us to enrich our activities and interactions. Thank you for being students whom we can be very proud to call Sooners," she



Rose Petrunyak

Left, Richard W. Little, Vice President for Outreach and Director of Advanced Programs for the University of Oklahoma, and Lee Williams, Dean of the Graduate College, congratulate Christina Adams, Lajes Site Director for the University of Oklahoma, Europe as she receives a Master's of Social Work June 2 at the Village Pavilion Community Center on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg.

finished.

The final OU graduate recognition ceremony is scheduled June 1, 2013, due to the planned closure of U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg.

GET OUT!

area events

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

June 21

Pop Fest – Musicians and industry professionals converge on Cologne for this year's Cologne on Pop music festival and convention. Daytime lectures examine the challenges currently facing the music industry, while a diverse range of local and international acts perform at night. Festival runs through June 24. <http://www.c-o-pop.de/>.

Summer Festival – Experience performing arts, cabaret shows and many other forms of street entertainment at the Opernplatz in Frankfurt. There are stages set up for live music performances in the evening and food stalls offering sausages and local apple wine. Opernplatz, 1 Opernplatz, 60313. www.opernplatzfest.de, 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, Huckeswagen, Karlsruhe, Köln, Leipzig, Leverkusen-Opladen, Mainz, Schwerin and Viersen-Dulken. Free entry. Fest runs through Sept. 2. www.bierboerse.com.

June 22

Midsummer Festival – The traditional Mainz Midsummer St. John's Night Festival, Johannisnacht, is the climax of the festival season in Mainz. Enjoy music, theater and folklore groups, live music and marching bands in the city's center. Festival ends June 25. Festival located outside of the Gutenberg Museum. Liebfrauenplatz 5, 55116, Mainz.

Jazz Boat – Enjoy views of major historical Prague monuments during the Jazz Boat's live jazz, swing and blues concert through Sept. 30. See landmarks like the Charles Bridge, Prague Castle and National Theater. A gourmet restaurant onboard serves a wide range of meals, as well as beer, spirits and wine. The boat is air-conditioned in the summer to ensure a comfortable voyage. Boat meets at Cechuv Bridge Pier 5 in Prague. www.buzzoffbase.com.

June 23

Intercultural Festival – The city of Heidelberg hosts an Intercultural Festival at the Universitätsplatz in Heidelberg 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Black Forest Tour – Travel to one of the most beautiful areas in Germany—the Black Forest. Tour features demonstrations from local woodworkers and bee keepers. Guests can also sample schnapps, fresh honey and dine on a traditional Black Forest

lunch. There will also be time for shopping and exploring the town of Triberg. Visitors can also view Germany's tallest waterfall. <http://affiliates.uso.org/kaiserslautern>.

Floriade Expo – Enjoy the Floriade 2012 World Horticultural Expo in Venlo, Netherlands. This event is held only once every 10 years. Enjoy flowers, plants and trees from around the world. DSN 370-7924, civ. 06221-57-7924. www.floriade.com.

Comedy Show – Comedians Joe Torry, Johnny Hollywood and Job perform starting 9 p.m. (Doors open 8 p.m.) at Armstrong's Club, Bldg. 1036 on Vogelweh Housing. There will be an Old School Rhythm and Blues party in Armstrong's Irish Pub after the show. Civ. 0631-354-9986.

Brussels – Spend the day in one of Europe's most bustling capitals. Full of flair and culture, Brussels beckons visitors to explore its many winding streets during a special city tour. Stroll through the beautiful main square, Grand Place, the famous statue Manneken-Pis and local museums. <http://affiliates.uso.org/kaiserslautern>.

Playmobil Park – The Playmobil fun park in Zirndorf features pirate ships, tree houses, castles, enchanted fairies, jungle ruins and other surprises. Activities and fun for the whole family. Brandstätterstraße 2-10, 90513 Zirndorf. Civ. 0911-966-6455, www.playmobil-funpark.de/en.

June 24

Soccer Stadium – Explore the Fritz-Walter-Soccer Stadium in Kaiserslautern during a special guided tour (in German) 4 p.m. Cost is €5 for adults. Stadium is located near the city's main Bahnhof. Fritz-Walter-Straße 1. Registration: stadionfuehrung@fck.de

Concert – Catch a performance of "Delta Blues," a ballet by Kevin O'day 7:30 p.m. at the National Theater in Mannheim. www.nationaltheater-mannheim.de.

Mozartfest – Internationally renowned symphony orchestras come together with well known artists to perform Mozart's masterpieces during the annual Mozartfest in Würzburg. Enjoy the open air concerts in the festively illuminated Court Gardens of the Residence, which are famous for their romantic atmosphere. Festival ends July 1. www.buzzoffbase.com.

June 25

Concert – The Northshore Concert Band will perform an open air concert 5 p.m. at Karlsplatz, downtown Heidelberg. The orchestra will play standard American band repertoire including music by George Gershwin, Leonard Bernstein and John Phillip Sousa. Special guest appearance by Lt. Col. Beth Steele, former commander of the U.S. Army Europe Band and Chorus. Free

admission.

Macbeth – The American Drama Group Europe and TNT Theatre Britain present William Shakespeare's Macbeth. This popular play will be presented in English at Schloss Heidelberg 8 p.m. Tickets: DSN 370-7924, civ. 06221-57-7924.

June 28

Folk im Schlosshof – Experience one of Germany's best Celtic folk and folk rock festivals in Schlosshof, Bonfeld through June 30. Folk im Schlosshof festivals features music, whiskey tasting, Irish tap dance and instrumental workshops. One-day tickets start at €15 and up; €68 for all three days. www.buzzoffbase.com.

July 7

Friendship Concert – United States Army Band and Chorus host a free friendship concert 8:30 p.m. at the Heidelberg Castle.

Sommerfest – The city of Mannheim hosts a Sommerfest in Herzogenriedpark. Enjoy music, food and outdoor fun. Fest starts 4 p.m.

July 14

Castle Illumination – Each year, the city of Heidelberg hosts castle illuminations using fireworks to commemorate the destruction of the Heidelberg castle by the French. The fireworks are ignited from the Old Bridge, which is closed for pedestrian traffic starting at 5 p.m. The city also hosts a concert before each illumination at 6:15 p.m. in the Heiliggeistkirche (Church of the Holy Spirit) on Market Square. Tickets: Civ. 06221-584-0200. The first illumination of the year is scheduled to start 10:30 p.m. www.heidelberg-marketing.de.

Upcoming concerts

Nas – Rapper Nas performs in concert 9 p.m. July 4 at the Backstage club in Munich. Friedenheimer Brücke 7, 80639. Tickets: www.eventim.de.

Billy Idol – Punk sensation Billy Idol plays the Porsche-Arena in Stuttgart 8 p.m. July 8. Information and tickets at www.billyidol.net.

De La Soul – Rap group De La Soul performs at the Gibson in Frankfurt 8 p.m. July 8. Zeil 85-93, 60313. www.songkick.com/concerts/12531033-de-la-soul-at-gibson.

Lady Antebellum – The Grammy-award winning country music group plays the Jahrhunderthalle in Frankfurt 7 p.m. July 20. Tickets: www.germanticketoffice.com.

coming to THEATERS

ROCK OF AGES

(Tom Cruise, Alec Baldwin) Rock of Ages tells the story of small town girl Sherrie and city boy Drew, who meet on the Sunset Strip while pursuing their Hollywood dreams. Their rock 'n' roll romance is told through the heart-pounding hits of Def Leppard, Joan Jett, Journey, Foreigner, Bon Jovi and Night Ranger. (Rated PG-13 for sexual content, suggestive dancing, some heavy drinking, and language). 123 minutes.



PLAYING THIS WEEK

Heidelberg, Patrick Henry Village

June 21 - AMERICAN REUNION (R) 7 p.m.
 June 22 - ROCK OF AGES (PG-13) 7 p.m.; THAT'S MY BOY (R) 10 p.m.
 June 23 - THE THREE STOOGES (PG) 4 p.m.; ROCK OF AGES (PG-13) 7 p.m.; THAT'S MY BOY (R) 9:30 p.m.
 June 24 - THE LUCKY ONE (PG-13) 4 p.m.; ROCK OF AGES (PG-13) 7 p.m.
 June 25 - THAT'S MY BOY (R) 7 p.m.
 June 26 - ROCK OF AGES (PG-13) 7 p.m.
 June 27 - THAT'S MY BOY (R) 7 p.m.
 June 28 - THE LUCKY ONE (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Vogelweh, Galaxy

June 22 - MADAGASCAR 3: EUROPE'S MOST WANTED (PG) 4 p.m.; PROMETHEUS (R) 7:30 p.m.
 June 23 - THE HUNGER GAMES (PG-13) 4 p.m.; AMERICAN REUNION (R) 7 p.m.
 June 24 - HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (PG) 4 p.m.

Ramstein, Gateway Movieplex

June 21 - PROMETHEUS (R) 11 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m.; MADAGASCAR 3: EUROPE'S MOST WANTED (PG) 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:45 p.m., 6 p.m.; THE HUNGER GAMES (PG-13) 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m.
 June 22 - ROCK OF AGES (PG-13) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m., 11:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 8:15 p.m.; THE THREE STOOGES (PG) 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m., THE LUCKY ONE (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m.
 June 23 - ROCK OF AGES (PG-13) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m.; THE THREE STOOGES (PG) 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m.; THE LUCKY ONE (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m.
 June 24 - ROCK OF AGES (PG-13) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m.; THAT'S MY BOY (R) 11:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 8:15 p.m.; THE THREE STOOGES (PG) 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:45 p.m., 8 p.m.; THE LUCKY ONE (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
 June 25 - ROCK OF AGES (PG-13) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m.; THAT'S MY BOY (R) 11:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 8:15 p.m.; THE THREE STOOGES (PG) 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:45 p.m., 8 p.m.; THE LUCKY ONE (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
 June 26 - ROCK OF AGES (PG-13) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m.; THAT'S MY BOY (R) 11:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 8:15 p.m.; THE THREE STOOGES (PG) 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:45 p.m., 8 p.m.; THE LUCKY ONE (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
 June 27 - ROCK OF AGES (PG-13) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m.; THAT'S MY BOY (R) 11:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 8:15 p.m.; THE THREE STOOGES (PG) 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:45 p.m., 8 p.m.; THE LUCKY ONE (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
 June 28 - ROCK OF AGES (PG-13) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m.; THAT'S MY BOY (R) 11:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 8:15 p.m.; THE THREE STOOGES (PG) 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m.; THE LUCKY ONE (PG-13) 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.

THEATER INFORMATION

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

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

Mannheim Cineplex (P4 13), Cinemax (M7, 17), Mannheim, civ. 01805-625466, www.cineplex.de

Mannheim, CinemaxX, Cineplex - English Language movies

June 21-27 - SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN (PG-13) 7:45 p.m. at Cineplex
 June 22-23 - MEN IN BLACK (PG-13) 10:30 p.m. at Cineplex
 June 22-23 - DARK SHADOWS (PG-13) 10:30 p.m. at Cineplex

community HIGHLIGHTS

Vehicle Registration Closed

Vehicle Registration in Bldg. 1563 on Spinelli Barracks in Mannheim will be closed June 22 in order to update Windows 7 software on vehicle registration computers. Vehicle Registration will reopen June 25. Hours are 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, closed U.S. holidays and the last duty day of the month for inventory. DSN 384-6100, civ. 0621-730-6100.

Fourth of July Celebration

Enjoy bumper cars, prize giveaways, a beach party, a carousel, a kid's pie eating contest, dunking booths, live music from the U.S. Army Europe Chorus, fireworks and more 4 p.m.-dusk July 4 at the park (next to the library) on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg. Event is open to all ID cardholders. DSN 373-8068, civ. 06221-17-8068, www.mwrgermany.com.

Estate Claim

Claims on or obligations to the estate of Spc. Yvonne Mitchell, 196th Medical Support Unit- Europe, should be made to the summary court officer, Maj. Kelly L. Johnson. DSN 382-4401, civ. 0162-296-5865.

Joint Task Force TIP Line

Incidents involving threats to children were recently reported in the Kaiserslautern Military Community. No matter where you live, Installation Management Command-Europe officials ask everyone to stay vigilant and report suspicious activity to the authorities. Save the Joint Task Force TIP Line phone number: DSN 388-2222, civ. 06221-678-2222. For emergencies off post, call 112. Authorities are aggressively working to resolve these threats and are using all available resources to track down those responsible.

NATO Change of Command

Col. BJ Constantine Jr. will relinquish command of the U.S. Army NATO Brigade to Col. Robert S. Larsen, and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark K. Schindler will relinquish responsibility to Command Sgt. Maj. Joanne M. Cox, 5 p.m. July 26 at Schlossgarten Mittelbau in Schwetzingen. Ceremony is by invitation only. DSN 496-5302, civ. 06302-67-5302.

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

local EMPLOYMENT

Central Texas College

Central Texas College is recruiting instructors in the Heidelberg area for the following vocational technical programs: criminal justice, early childhood professions, applied management, emergency medical technology, hospitality management and automotive technology. Applicants are required to have an associate degree in the field and five years of work experience, or a bachelor's degree and three years of work experience in the field. Classes are taught evenings and weekends. DSN 382-4263, civ. 0621-799-0506, www.europe.ctcd.edu.

KAISERSLAUTERN

Education

♦ **English For Adults** – English as a Second Language for Adults classes are available at no cost in Bldg. 2891 on Pulaski Barracks. Beginner classes are 9:30 a.m. June 25 and Mondays; intermediate classes meet 9:30 a.m. Fridays. DSN 493-4203, civ. 0631-3406-4203.

♦ **Stress Management** – Learn about the different kinds of stress and healthy ways to cope 11:30 a.m. June 26 and Tuesdays in Bldg. 2917 on Pulaski Barracks. DSN 493-4062, civ. 0631-3406-4062.

♦ **Food Safety for Volunteers** – The Landstuhl Regional Medical Center Environmental Health Section presents a food safety for volunteers class 5-7 p.m. July 5 and first Thursdays at the Learning Resource Center (Bldg. 3718) at LRMCC. A food handler's card is required for anyone responsible for organizing and supervising food sales fundraising activities. Registration required. DSN 486-8489, civ. 06371-86-8489.

Community

♦ **Independent, Foreign Films** – There will be a free showing of the film "The Wind Journeys," 5:30 p.m. June 21 at Kleber Branch Library, Bldg. 3205. Refreshments provided. DSN 483-1740, civ. 06371-411-1740.

♦ **HUGS Playgroup** – HUGS (Help Us Grow Securely) playgroup, for parents and children birth to age 4, meets 10-11:30 a.m. June 22 and Fridays at the Vogelweh Community Center. DSN 493-4203, civ. 0631-3406-4203.

♦ **Family Fun Days** – Spend the afternoon playing darts, virtual bowling, video games and more 3-6 p.m. June 24 at Armstrong's Club, Bldg. 1036, on Vogelweh Housing. Civ. 0631-354-9986, www.mwrgermany.com.

♦ **Single Soldier Appreciation** – Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will host an appreciation day for single Soldiers and geographical bachelors and bachelorettes 10 a.m.-4 p.m. July 6 at Pulaski Park on Pulaski Barracks. Activities include a basketball tournament, dance central contest, ice cream eating contest and raffles. DSN 493-4469, civ. 0631-3406-4469.

♦ **Customer Service Team** – The Host Nation Liasion Field Operating Activity Maintenance Division Customer Service Team in Bldg. 2393 on Daenner Kaserne will be closed July 6 for an annual works outing. DSN 475-7688, civ. 09641-83-7688.

♦ **Summer Dramatics Camp** – Ages 4-7 can attend a summer creative dramatics camp 9 a.m.-1 p.m. July 9-13 and 16-20 at KMC Onstage on Kleber Kaserne. Children will play theater games and learn improvisation, voice and self-confidence. Register at Parent Central Services, Bldg.

2898 on Pulaski Barracks or the One Stop Shop, Bldg. 3810 on Landstuhl. DSN 493-4516, civ. 0631-3406-4516, www.mwrgermany.com.

♦ **Amnesty Day** – The 21st Theater Sustainment Command has scheduled an anonymous amnesty day (no repercussions) to allow for the turn-in of ammunition and explosives 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. July 10 at the Theater Logistics Support Center-Europe Ammunition Supply Point 9 at Miesau Army Depot. The program is not intended to circumvent normal ammunition turn-in procedures. DSN 481-3516, civ. 06372-842-3516.

♦ **Biker Bonanza** – The Harley Davidson Biker Bonanza, for ages 18 and older, is scheduled July 14 with rideout starting 1 p.m. Ride ends at Armstrong's Club on Vogelweh, and food, drinks and music will be offered starting 8 p.m. Registration for ride-out required. Civ. 0631-350-7919, www.mwrgermany.com.

♦ **KMC Onstage Auditions** – Open auditions for the musical "Pinkalicious" will be 6:30 p.m. July 17, 18 at KMC Onstage, Bldg. 3232 on Kleber Kaserne. Open to ages 6 and older. DSN 483-6626, civ. 0631-411-6626.

♦ **Kleber VAT Office** – The Kleber Kaserne Value Added Tax office in Bldg. 3205 has new hours: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday. DSN 483-1780, civ. 0631-411-1780.

♦ **Pulaski VAT Office** – The Pulaski Barracks Value Added Tax office has new hours: 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. DSN 493-4035, civ. 0631-346-4035.

♦ **Mystery Shopper** – Mystery shoppers perform customer service reviews throughout the garrison and through various Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. www.mwrgermany.com.

HEIDELBERG

Education

♦ **ACS Classes** – Army Emergency Relief Commanders and First Sergeants Briefing, 10-11 a.m. June 22; Key Caller Training, 2:30 p.m. June 26; Volunteer Management Information System Training, 10-11 a.m. June 27; English as a Second Language, 6-7:30 p.m. Mondays, ACS Annex, PHV, Bldg. 4531; Re-integration Briefing, 9 a.m. Tuesdays. Registration is required. Classes are in the Community Support Center, Bldg. 3850, on the Shopping Center unless noted. DSN 370-6975, civ. 06221-57-6975.

♦ **Conversational German** – Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation offers four-session Conversational German 5:30-7 p.m. July 17, 19, 24 and 26 at the Village Pavilion Community Center on Patrick Henry Village. Learn words, phrases and helpful tips that can instantly help avoid stumbling with what to say. Registration required. DSN 388-

9438, civ. 06221-338-9438.

♦ **Central Texas College** – Central Texas College's summer semester includes criminal justice classes and a fire protection course. Classes are taught evenings and weekends for eight weeks at the Education Center on Patton Barracks. DSN 373-8660, civ. 06221-17-8660, www.europe.ctcd.edu.

♦ **German Classes** – The USO will offer level one German 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday at Campbell Barracks and 6:15-7:45 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday in Bldg. 3850 on the Shopping Center July 31-Oct. 25. Level two German will be 10-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday on Campbell Barracks and 6:15-7:45 p.m. in Bldg. 3850 on the Shopping Center Aug. 1-Oct. 26. Registration and purchase of textbook required. DSN 370-7924, civ. 06221-57-7924.

Community

♦ **Right Arm Night** – Ages 18 and older can enjoy happy hour with their bosses and co-workers 5-7 p.m. June 22 at the Copper Lounge in the Village Pavilion Community Center. www.mwrgermany.com.

♦ **Line Dance Instruction** – Learn how to line dance 7-9 p.m. and stay for a karaoke and dance party 9 p.m.-close June 22 and Fridays at Legends on Patrick Henry Village. DSN 388-9570, civ. 06221-338-9570.

♦ **Indoor Flea Market** – There will be an indoor flea market 9 a.m.-1 p.m. June 23 in the Village Pavilion Community Center on Patrick Henry Village. Tables are available for rent to sellers. DSN 388-9438, civ. 06221-338-9438.

♦ **Summer Patio Party** – Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers hosts a patio party with food and outdoor activities 4 p.m. June 23 at Slapshots on Patton Barracks. DSN 373-5275, civ. 06221-17-5275.

♦ **Summer Reading Program** – The summer reading program for teens begins with a kick off event 2 p.m. June 26 at the Patrick Henry Village Library. Preschoolers and kindergartners can participate 11 a.m. Wednesdays June 27-July 25, and students in grades 1 through 5 can participate 11:30 a.m. Thursdays June 28-July 19. DSN 388-9443, civ. 06221-338-9443.

♦ **Hip-Hop, Rhythm and Blues** – A hip-hop and rhythm and blues party featuring Disk Jockey Bello, as well as a dance contest, starts 9 p.m. June 30 at Legends on Patrick Henry Village. DSN 388-9570, civ. 06221-338-9570, www.mwrgermany.com.

♦ **Speedy Lube** – Receive \$2 off oil and filter changes in June at Speedy Lube, Bldg. 3854, on Patton Barracks. DSN 373-5196, civ. 06221-17-5196.

♦ **4th Of July After Party** – After the fireworks, continue the Fourth of July celebration at Legends on

Patrick Henry Village 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Disc Jockey Bello from New York will play hip-hop, Latin and dance hits. DSN 388-9570, civ. 06221-338-9570.

♦ **Organizational Day** – The U.S. Army Baden-Württemberg Organizational Day is July 12, with a golf tournament starting 8 a.m., bowling tournament 10 a.m., barbecue at the Patrick Henry Village Park starting noon and games and other activities starting 2 p.m. at the park. Tickets: DSN 388-9101, civ. 0171-865-0863.

♦ **PHV Commissary Closed** – The Heidelberg Commissary will be closed July 25 for an organizational day. Normal operating hours will resume July 26: 7:30 a.m.-9 a.m. for Early Bird shopping and 9 a.m.-9 p.m. for regular shopping. DSN 388-9074, civ. 06221-759-3112.

♦ **Trivia Challenge Season** – Bring a team or join one for trivia 7-9 p.m. Thursdays until Aug. 3 at Legends on Patrick Henry Village. The team that gathers the most points will win a prize. DSN 388-9570, civ. 06221-338-9570, www.mwrgermany.com.

♦ **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, www.mwrgermany.com.

MANNHEIM

Community

♦ **Customs Field Office** – The U.S. Forces Customs Field Office located in Bldg. 256 (MP Station) is open 7:30-3:45 p.m. Monday-Friday (no lunch closure) and is closed American and German holidays. DSN 385-3326, civ. 0621-730-3326.

♦ **Battlefield Night** – Team up with friends and play Battlefield online on X-Box or PlayStation 3 4:30-10 p.m. June 21 and Thursdays at the Warrior Zone on Coleman Barracks. DSN 382-4410, civ. 0621-779-4410.

♦ **TGIF Buffet** – Enjoy a buffet 6:30 p.m. and stay for variety music 9 p.m.-2 a.m. June 22 and every Friday at the Top Hat Club on Benjamin Franklin Village. DSN 380-9370, civ. 0621-730-9370.

♦ **POV Inspection Station** – The Host Nation Liasion Field Operating Activity Maintenance Division Privately Owned Vehicle inspection in Bldg. 1563 on Spinelli Barracks will be closed July 6 for an annual works employee outing. DSN 475-7688, civ. 09641-83-7688.

♦ **BOSS Meeting** – Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will meet 3:30 p.m. July 11 at the Warrior Zone on Coleman Barracks. DSN 373-5275, civ. 06221-17-5275.

Liberty Ride offers American cyclists glimpses of history

By Rick Scavetta

USAG KAISERSLAUTERN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SAINT LO, France – Pedaling up the Rue Havin, Ron Rasch told fellow Liberty Trail riders of World War II's devastation on this Norman town.

Rasch, the deputy political advisor at U.S. Army Europe, was among more than 60 Americans who took part in the three-day ride that began June 1, passing through many towns and villages that withstood the horrors of war during the summer of 1944.

"This town was flattened during the war by Allied bombers," Rasch told them, as they rode into the Place du General de Gaulle, to crowds of clapping French people. "And still, they are so grateful for the liberation that it brought them."

More than 60 riders were American, many of whom serve with the U.S. military in Belgium, Germany and Italy.

Routes took riders through Cotentin Peninsula, now farmlands that were once the scene of brutal fighting.

Each day they rode more than 70 miles, ending each leg in Périers. Some riders stayed on cots in a local gym. Others stayed at "gites," local vacation sites.

The ride began in Périers, where the 90th Infantry Division fought during World War II. On the first leg, cyclists made their way down the long straight road from Périers to Saint Lo, the very line where in July 1944, U.S. and Allied troops launched Operation Cobra – the breakout from Normandy's hedgerow country that led to the liberation of Paris.

"You notice a lot [of] plaques and memorials along the way," said Jason Hogie, a civilian plans specialist for U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg.

"To think what it took for those Soldiers to do those tough missions, it gives one pause to think and reflect."

Hogie has taken part in the ride each summer for the past five years. The camaraderie keeps him coming back, he said.

"It's an opportunity to ride with people from many countries and commemorate the battles in the areas we ride through," Hogie said. "It's a good way to see history and relive a little bit of it."

At Saint Lo, riders dismounted for a ceremony at a gate in the square, the only remnant of a



Rick Scavetta

Maj. Dan Kolva, a U.S. Army officer assigned to the Stuttgart-based U.S. Africa Command, was among more than 60 Americans who took part in the Liberty Trail Ride this year in Normandy June 1. The Liberty Trail Ride is a cycling event that coincided with the 68th anniversary of D-Day.

prison where Germans kept 150 French citizens, some of whom were resistance fighters.

On June 6 and 7, as U.S. and Allied troops moved inland from the D-Day beaches, Allied bombs destroyed the prison, killing everyone inside.

Officials laid wreaths as somber music played and church bells tolled in the distance.

French men in military berets, some veterans of French conflicts in Vietnam and Algeria, stood with their unit flags.

When "La Marseillaise" played, their soft baritone voices sang proudly, and the crowds joined in.

"It's really moving, to hear people in another country sing their national anthem," said Navy Lt. Mike Doblting.

Doblting, who works with the Naval Facilities Engineering Command in Vicenza, Italy, took part in the ride last year in Belgium. This year, he and three coworkers drove 14 hours to participate.

"It's something you'd never think you'd ride a bike through," Doblting said. "Just looking at the hedgerows and trying to imagine what it would be like to fight back in those days – how much of an effort, how much of a sacrifice it

took just to move 50 feet, from one hedgerow to the next."

Two lieutenant colonels, Chris Dillard and Jeff Pannaman, took the train to Paris from Stuttgart, where they serve with U.S. Africa Command. They rode their bikes across the French capital to catch another train to Carentan. They then rode into Périers. The ride offered more than the average tourist sees, Dillard said.

"It's an amazing experience," Dillard added.

After the ride, returning through Paris near the Gare de l'Est, Pannaman heard a woman calling after a thief running with a bag in his hands.

Although Pannaman carried a 30-pound pack and had cycled more than 275 miles during the previous three days, the Special Forces officer chased the man down on his bike, tackled him without unhooking from his pedals and held him until French police could arrive.

Modest about his efforts, Pannaman said he just did something when no one else appeared to move. "There was a person in distress, asking for assistance," Pannaman said. "He was a bad guy. It just happened."

staying ACTIVE

Boxing Invitational

A Boxing Invitational will be held 7 p.m. June 23 at Miesau Gym (near Kaiserslautern), Bldg. 1220. Open to Military ID card holders. Tickets available at the door. VIP seating \$8 or general seating \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids. DSN 493-2088, civ. 0631-3406-2088.

Tennis Camps

Youth tennis camps will be held at the Heidelberg Tennis Center June 25-29, July 9-13, July 30-Aug. 3 and Aug. 20-24. Open to ages 6-18. Cost is \$250 per person. DSN 388-9037 civ. 06221-338-9037.

Skydiving Trip

Take a memorable trip tandem skydiving in Bitburg with Outdoor Recreation July 4. Jump from a plane more than two miles high and descend at speeds approaching 200 miles per hour. Trip departs 7:30 a.m. from Pulaski Barracks Bldg. 2905 and costs \$269. www.mwrgermany.com.

Heidelberg Open

Registration is open for the 2012 Heidelberg Open golf tournament scheduled for July 27-29 in Oftersheim. For details and registration forms visit www.Heidelberggolf.com. Deadline to register is July 15. www.mwrgermany.com.

Summer Bowling Leagues

Join a summer bowling league at the Patrick Henry Village Bowling and Entertainment Center. Open to all skill levels. DSN 388-9040, civ. 06221-338-9040.

Sembach Soccer Clinics

Sembach Soccer Clinics are now available through SKIES Unlimited for beginner, intermediate and advanced youth players. Clinics include scrimmages, drills, team tactics, attacking and defending skills. Register through Parent Central Services, Pulaski Barracks, Bldg. 2898 or One Stop Shop, Landstuhl Post, Bldg. 3810.

Binkies and Babes

Moms and their babies ages 6 weeks-2 years old can workout together during infant stimulation class. Bring baby's favorite blanket and toy. 10-11 a.m. Mondays. \$6 per class. Landstuhl Fitness Center, Bldg. 3720. DSN 486-7172, civ. 0631-86-7172.

Dynamic Yoga

Landstuhl Fitness Center offers a dynamic yoga class to revitalize the body and awaken the mind and spirit, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Wednesdays. Class features challenging posture flow along with meditation and breathing exercises. Landstuhl, Bldg. 3720. DSN 486-7172, civ. 06371-86-7172.

Special Mix

Sullivan Fitness Center offers a total body conditioning workout designed to tone, firm and sculpt the body and flatten the stomach. 6-7 p.m. Mondays at Sullivan Fitness Center in Mannheim. DSN 385-3149, www.mwrgermany.com.

Pump Iron

Use a weighted bar to burn calories and sculpt your physique during a Pump Iron workout. Classes meet noon Mondays, 6 p.m. Tuesdays and 6:30 a.m. Fridays at Campbell Fitness Center in Heidelberg, www.mwrgermany.com.

Archery Range

Located behind the Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club, the Archery Range contains a 14-target archery course as well as two tree stands with a random number of 3D targets scattered across the range. Equipment available for rent. Open to all ages. Civ. 06205-14-309, www.mwrgermany.com.