

HeraldPOST

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

HP THURSDAY
May 3, 2012

Speed Read

TOWN HALL MEETING

U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg will hold a town hall meeting 2 p.m. today at the Village Pavilion Community Center in Heidelberg.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Travelers to the United States arriving from overseas locations are not allowed to bring certain agricultural items into the country. 2

BIKE TO WORK DAY

Community members rode from Patrick Henry Village to Patton and Campbell Barracks and Nachrichten Kaserne in Heidelberg. 6



MEDPROS UPDATES

Commanders and supervisors will be better able to explain why their Soldiers are non-deployable thanks to changes in the Army's online reporting system. 10

USAREUR OLYMPIAN

U.S. Army Europe health care specialist, boxing professional pursues dream of competing in 2016 Olympics. 13



Heidelberg hosts school registration

Staff Report

Heidelberg schools will host registration for the 2012-2013 school year 9 a.m.-5 p.m. May 10 and 8 a.m.-3 p.m. May 11 at the Village Pavilion Community Center on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg.

The school year begins Aug. 27 and all new and current students are required to register.

Representatives from Heidelberg Middle and High Schools, Mannheim Elementary School and Patrick Henry Elementary School will be available to assist families during the registration process.

Wiesbaden school officials will also be on hand to accept registration packets for Heidelberg and Mannheim students who are scheduled to move this summer to Wiesbaden.

Students who attended Mannheim Elementary School during the last school year will transfer to Patrick Henry Elementary or Heidelberg Middle School due to the school's closure next month. The closing school ceremony for Mannheim Elementary School will be held June 8.

Parents should bring following paperwork to the school's preregistration May 10 and 11:

- ♦Current orders assigning sponsor to Heidelberg, Mannheim or Wiesbaden (and supporting documents listed on form DSE 910R)

- ♦Sponsor's extension orders, Officer Record Brief or Enlisted Record Brief that supports ORB/ERB to support date eligible for return from overseas

- ♦Student's updated immunization record (Shots must be updated before student may start school)

- ♦Birth certificate or passport for new kindergarteners (must be 5 years old before Sept. 1) or new 1st graders (must be 6 years old before Sept. 1).

- ♦Sponsor's current unit and telephone number.

see **SCHOOL** page 14

Persistence pays off



Rick Scavetta

Staff Sgt. Robert Donovan, a U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern military police officer, mentors Spc. Rosa Reilvitz recently at the Breitenwald rifle range in Landstuhl. During an April 17 ceremony, Donovan was named Installation Management Command Europe Region's NCO of the Year and the IMCOM NCO of the Year during a second ceremony April 26. He will go on to represent IMCOM at the All-Army Best Warrior competition later this year.

Kaiserslautern Soldier overcomes past defeat with persistence, patience

By Rick Scavetta

USAG KAISERSLAUTERN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Last year, Staff Sgt. Robert Donovan pushed himself too hard during the road march at the best warrior competition. He hadn't drank enough water, his muscles cramped and his legs felt shaky.

Afterward, while plotting points on his map, Donovan felt delirious and dehydrated. Alone in the woods, he radioed for help — signaling the end to his ambition of being Installation Management Command Europe Region's NCO of the Year.

"It shook me up quite a bit, but I made a decision to get some treatment," Donovan said. "I was wor-

ried because my body had never failed me like that. It was quite a disappointment."

Yet, instead of simply accepting defeat, Donovan saw his failure as an important lesson, a motivating factor that led him back to the 2012 IMCOM-Europe Best Warrior Competition, held recently at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwöhr.

"I've always been competitive and I love putting myself to the test," Donovan said. "Up until that point, I didn't know what it felt like to fail."

A military police investigations supervisor at U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern, Donovan, 28, of Boston, excelled at sports in high school. In 2005,

after two years studying criminal justice at New Hampshire's Saint Anselm College, Donovan enlisted as a military police officer. Assigned to 118th Military Police Company (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, N.C., Donovan first tasted Army competition at the military police warfighter event. His team placed sixth of 40. But, tougher tests lay ahead.

In 2006, he endured a 15-month deployment to Baghdad. Returning to Fort Bragg, he underwent specialized MP training, earned sergeant's stripes and got married. Before long, he returned to combat, deploying in 2009 to Afghanistan's Logar

see **DONOVAN** page 14

Defense Details

PREDATORY SCHOOLS

President Barack Obama, accompanied by First Lady Michelle Obama, discussed a new executive order that helps to safeguard military education benefits and protect service members from predatory schools. Obama declared he was "going to put an end" to hidden high-interest student loans, non-transferrable credits and non-existent job placement programs used as tactics to "swindle and hoodwink" troops through his signature Friday of an executive order. According to the president, the order requires colleges to provide clear information about qualifications and financial aid through access to a fact sheet called "Know Before You Owe," and providing increased support through counseling to prevent improper education program recruiting practices.

www.defense.gov

What's Inside

Transformation Update.....	4
Our Army Around the World.....	8
Dear Ms. Vicki.....	10
GET OUT!	11
Movies.....	11
Announcements	12
Sports.....	13

CUSTOMS ADVICE

Travelers to United States may carry some agricultural items, others often restricted

By **Scott Sanner**
USDA ADVISER

Before you depart for the United States, travelers should be aware of U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines for bringing agricultural items into the United States.

USDA restricts or prohibits many of these items from entering the country because they could carry pests or diseases that could threaten human health or devastate the environment, crops, agricultural animals, ornamental plants and community landscapes.

Items including fruits and vegetables, meat and dairy products, plant and plant products and seeds are among the items the USDA regulates.

Officers or agriculture specialists with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection may inspect your baggage when you first arrive in the United States to ensure the agricultural items you are carrying are allowable under USDA regulations.

It is important to declare all items that you are bringing into the United States as stated on the CBP declaration form.

Note: Individuals who fail to declare non-commercial agricultural items may be subject to penalties of up to \$1,000 or more per violation.

These penalties are based on authorities granted to USDA through the Plant Protection Act and the Animal Health Protection Act.

The following food items are generally allowed entry:

- ◆ Condiments like oil, vinegar, mustard, ketchup, pickles, syrup, honey without honey combs, jelly and jam.
- ◆ Foodstuffs like bakery items, candy and chocolate.
- ◆ Hard cured cheeses without meat, like parmesan or cheddar.
- ◆ Canned goods and goods in vacuum-packed jars (except those containing meat or poultry products) for personal use.
- ◆ Fish or fish products for personal use.
- ◆ Powdered drinks sealed in original containers with ingredients listed in English.
- ◆ Dry mixes containing dairy and egg ingredients (such as baking mixes, cocoa mixes, drink mixes, instant cake mixes, instant pudding mixes, liquid drink mixes containing reconstituted dry milk or dry milk products, potato flakes and infant formula) that are commercially labeled, presented in final finished packaging and require no further manipulation of the product.

Remember, you must declare all food and agricultural products, including those listed above, to a CBP agriculture specialist or officer when you arrive in the United States.

Other Resources

These federal agencies may have regulatory authority over certain items arriving in passenger baggage:

- ◆ U.S. Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service (www.fws.gov)
- ◆ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov)
- ◆ Food and Drug Administration (www.fda.gov)



Canned goods, condiments and chocolate are items that can be transported through customs into the United States.



Fruits, meat products, plants and seeds are items that cannot be in a traveler's suitcase or handheld luggage entering the United States.



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

"There will be a USAG BW Facebook Townhall 2 p.m. May 3 at the Village Pavilion Community Center on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg. The meeting will air live on American Forces Network Europe television and will be streamed on the garrison Facebook page for fans to watch and ask questions."

—BWnow Facebook Administrator

"Hi there! Are there going to be clips on the FB page afterwards? My daughter has a dr.'s appt. on Tuesday, and we won't be back in time for the meeting. Thank you!"

—Jackie Shaver, BWnow Facebook fan

"Jackie, any video from the meeting will be posted to the BWnow YouTube channel and at <http://mybwnow.ning.com>"

—BWnow Facebook Administrator

"Is there a main topic or is it all over the board?"

—Dana Thompson, BWnow Facebook fan

"Dana, the majority of the discussion will be about ongoing transformation changes and updates."

—BWnow Facebook 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.

Holocaust survivor impacts USAREUR

Dr. Eva Iszak Djordjevic speaks at Days of Remembrance



Sgt. Michael Reinsch

Dr. Eva Iszak Djordjevic meets with an audience member during the Days of Remembrance event at Wilson Theater on Nachrichten Kaserne in Heidelberg, April 19. This year's theme is "choosing to act," which enforced that people should act on a situation rather than stand by when peoples' lives are in danger. The week-long observance was established by U.S. Congress as an annual remembrance of the events that took place during the Holocaust.

By Sgt. Michael Reinsch
USAREUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Soldiers, family members and Department of the Army civilians filed into Wilson Theater on Nachrichten Kaserne in Heidelberg April 19 and quietly watched the stage as an elderly lady, with the help of her daughter, walked slowly to the chair placed opposite the podium.

She gently sat down, placed her hand in her bag and removed a document that appeared old and ragged. It was from these memoirs that Dr. Eva Iszak Djordjevic captivated the audience through her story on survival during the Holocaust.

The 84-year-old-Hungarian had not been back to Germany since her

liberation in 1945.

An invitation by the U.S. Army brought her back to speak to the audience during the Days of Remembrance, April 15-22.

The week-long observance was established by U.S. Congress as an annual remembrance of the events that took place during the Holocaust.

This year's theme is "choosing to act," which enforced that people should act on a situation rather than stand by when peoples' lives are in danger.

Many people during World War II shielded those who were hunted by the Nazis by providing safe passages, fake passports and giving the refugees work.

These rescues were done at great

Dr. Eva Iszak Djordjevic was just 17 when she and thousands of other survivors were liberated from Dachau Concentration Camp on April 29, 1945.



risk. Assisting those who were hunted was often considered treasonous to the Nazis and punishable by death.

Djordjevic was taken in 1944 by the Nazi army, which had occupied Hungary. She was forced to march with other Jewish women up to 40 kilometers a day until they reached the Austrian border.

The survivors of the march were forced onto a train that took them to Ravensbrück Concentration Camp, Germany. There the women were subjected to beatings, harsh work environments and starvation.

"From 4 a.m. to 8 a.m., we stood on the Appell Platz, where temperatures were -10 to -20 C, wearing only a summer dress and a thin jacket," Djordjevic said, who recalled standing in the square where the roll calls were held at Ravensbrück.

"At 8 a.m., exhausted and frozen, with a cup of black water they called coffee and a thin piece of bread made of a mixture of flour and scrapings of wood, we were pressed to work outside."

Djordjevic was transferred to Burgau in March 1945 and then eventually Turkheim, both sub camps of Dachau Concentration Camp.

"[Similar treatment] continued there, the starvation and humiliation. But they could not send us to work because we were living corpses," she said.

Djordjevic was 17 when American Soldiers entered Dachau Concentration Camp on April 29, 1945, liberating her and thousands of other prisoners who had survived.

"After the war was over, we were so happy that there were no more Nazis and no more hate," Djordjevic said.

Djordjevic has lived in Belgrade ever since her liberation in 1945 and raised a family.

"Although I have started a new life, an eternal scar persists in my wounded soul and body," Djordjevic said.

"The irreplaceable loss of my father, many relatives and friends, my home, mental and physical sufferings, humiliation and tortures can never be forgotten. Every day is remembrance for me because I can never forget what happened."

After she gave her story to the mostly lament audience, she was presented with flowers and the attendees shook her hand and thanked her for telling her story.

"It's hard to hear her story first hand and to even think that these events ever happened; it goes to the heart," said Equal Opportunity Advisor Master Sgt. Jason Reisler, European Regional Medical Command.

"I think that it touched everyone who participated in this observance. They actually heard and felt the story and will walk out of here keeping that story with them."

Information Assurance to improve cyber readiness

By Kristopher Joseph
5TH SIGNAL COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"Improving Cyber Readiness" was the theme of this year's Army in Europe Information Assurance Cyber Week April 23-26 at the Village Pavilion Community Center in Heidelberg.

IA professionals, who included active duty Soldiers and civilians, gathered from across Europe to participate in the event. Workshops, briefings and networking opportunities were on tap daily with a myriad IA-related topics designed to help those in the IA community become more proficient in their careers.

"This is a great opportunity for IA professionals to get up-to-date on the

latest policies and the latest systems and tools to help them achieve success in this theater," said Dan Hingtgen, USAREUR IA Program Manager. "Another great thing about this event is the opportunity to network with counterparts and leadership so that best practices and experiences out in the field are shared and learned from."

The main role of IA in USAREUR is to perform computer network defense and to train and set policies that informs users and ensures military data and information is protected.

"IA is everyone's business," Hingtgen said. "Everyone has to understand that the threats are real, and everyone should know what their responsibilities are on the network."

A recurring topic during the cyber week was how to translate technicalities and implications of the network so the everyday user can relate to it.

Jonathon Bingham, IAPM for 5th Signal's 509th Signal Battalion in Vicenza, said that we have to start looking at the network like the autobahn.

"On the autobahn, like any freeway, you need a license to drive on it and you have to follow a set of rules so that accidents don't happen," Bingham said. "On the network, your CAC is your driver's license, and if you break the rules people could get hurt and your license can be taken away."

Bingham also advocates that garrisons should implement an "IA stand down day," much like how garrisons

hold safety stand down days to focus on the seriousness of being safe in the real world.

"Leadership involvement in IA is absolutely critical," Hingtgen said. "When everyone knows what right looks like, it will help us better protect the network from our adversaries."

5th Signal Commander and USAREUR G6, Col. (P) Bruce Crawford, was also in attendance and said:

"Everyone in this room plays a critical role ... So as I stand here before you today I'd like to say again, [IA] is the absolute foundation of our greater cyber efforts. Thank you all again for your dedication, but most of all for your resilience and for your professionalism."

Honoring 60 years of service, support

5th Signal Command Public Affairs

There will be a 60th anniversary commemoration ceremony for the 6981st Civilian Support Group 1 p.m. May 3 at the Coleman Club, Coleman Barracks in Mannheim. Col. (P) Bruce T. Crawford, commander, 5th Signal Command, will be the guest speaker.

The 6981st CSG is one of three remaining CSG's in U.S. Army Europe who are a direct descendant of the first German Labor Service Units activated during the Berlin blockade.

The 6981st, currently under 2nd Signal Brigade, was activated May 2, 1952.

New leader for 30th Medical Command

30th Medical Command Public Affairs

Soldiers of U.S. Army Europe's theater enabling medical asset gathered with friends, family members, and area leaders April 19 in Heidelberg to say farewell to one commander and welcome another to the team.

Col. Koji D. Nishimura took command of the 30th Medical Command from Col. John M. Cho during the unit's Change of Command Ceremony on the Nachrichten Kaserne Parade Field.

During the ceremony, Brig. Gen. Nadja Y. West, the U.S. Army Europe command surgeon and commander of the Europe Regional Medical Command, commended Cho for his leadership and welcomed Nishimura and his wife to 30th MEDCOM.

Cho expressed his thanks to his family, colleagues and friends, and recognized the unwavering dedication of the Soldiers of the "Best and Most Powerful MEDCOM in the World."

Nishimura comes to 30th MEDCOM after serving as the Chief of the Medical Corps Branch, U.S. Army Human Resources Command at Fort Knox, KY.

transformation UPDATE

Frequently Asked Questions

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

E-mail usarmy.badenwur.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/transformation.

NEW – I was wondering if you could tell me if the laundromat on post in Mannheim is still open. I live off post, but need to sell my washer and dryer prior to PCS.

The Mannheim Launderette on Benjamin Franklin Village is currently open but is scheduled to permanently close June 15.

NEW – What should military members expect in regard to logistical support and housing?

Support, whether logistical or housing or other, will continue to occur at a level our community members deserve. This means necessary services will continue to be provided based on customer demand and available resources (money, equipment, workforce). Often service locations have to be consolidated because of resource limitations and this will usually mean consolidation in the area with the greatest population which is Heidelberg. In some cases, the consolidation will be in Mannheim, like the Vehicle Registration on Spinelli Barracks. The intent is to keep established timelines as closure progresses while minimizing turbulence to community members by notifying them of changes as soon as possible and generally at least 30 days in advance. That will not always be possible when changes are the result of unexpected employee sick leaves or other losses of employees providing the services. Although the changes are necessary, we understand they aren't easy because of the high level of services in close proximity to home and work that community members have become accustomed. The command will do its best to retain the proximity and quality of services as long as possible.

Should we expect to see a raise in COLA for the service members staying behind – maybe a COLA survey?

Military finance centers pay Cost Of Living Allowance in U.S. dollars based on the currency exchange rate. COLA is calculated by comparing the prices of goods and services overseas with average prices for equivalent goods and services in CONUS. If prices in CONUS are rising at a greater rate than those overseas, COLA will decrease. If prices overseas are rising at a greater rate than those in CONUS, COLA will increase. For information about overseas COLA, see www.defense.travel.dod.mil/site/cola.cfm. COLA rates wouldn't be affected by changes in access to military facilities.

Facilities Operations Changes Mannheim

Barber Shop – The Benjamin Franklin Village Barber Shop is now closed. The Coleman Barber Shop is open 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. The Coleman Barber Concessionaire has agreed to remain open until 5 p.m. if customer traffic increases.

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

Coleman Clinics – The Coleman Troop Medical

Town Hall Meeting

U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg will hold a town hall meeting 2 p.m. May 3 at the Village Pavilion Community Center in Heidelberg. The meeting will be aired on the program guide and the Heidelberg virtual channel, 15 on an AFN decoder, or the AFN Atlantic Prime channel from on post. It will also be streamed on the AFN Europe website (www.afneurope.net), on the USAG BW Facebook page (www.facebook.com/bwnow), and the garrison website (www.bw.eur.army.mil/community_life/townhall.html) page for fans to watch and ask questions. To email questions ahead of time, place "town hall meeting" in the subject line and direct an email to usarmy.badenwur.usag.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil or ask on the USAG BW Facebook page.

Clinic will cease full patient care services June 1, to include pharmacy services, and will transition to sick call support beginning June 4. In addition, all dental support at the Coleman Dental Clinic, to include dental sick call services, will cease May 1. Dental services for the Mannheim-Coleman Soldier population will transfer to the Patrick Henry Village Dental Clinic in Heidelberg. The sick call sign-in hours at Coleman TMC beginning June 4 will be 8-9:30 a.m. Sick call service will be reassessed on a monthly basis to determine continuation based on use. 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.

NEW – Facility Closures – The Mannheim main post exchange, gas station, launderette, Popeyes, Taco Bell and concessions area are scheduled to close **June 15**.

Gas Station – The Gas Station on Benjamin Franklin Village in Mannheim is closed on Mondays to coincide with the operating hours of the Exchange, which is also closed Mondays. There is no access to BFV South (PX gate) on Mondays.

Sexual Assault Hotline Consolidated – The 24-hour sexual assault and domestic violence hotline for Mannheim and Heidelberg is civ. 0170-609-2862.

NEW – Shuttle Bus – The community shuttle bus will no longer stop at the Benjamin Franklin Village guest house, and a new stop has been added on Funari Barracks. The new schedule is also available from any shuttle bus driver, at the Central Processing Facility in Heidelberg or by calling DSN 373-8350 or civ. 062217-8350.

SORT Center – The SORT Center, Bldg. 804-806, on Funari Barracks accepts hazardous waste turn-in 10 a.m.-noon on Mondays and Wednesdays. If Monday is a German or U.S. holiday, turn-in days are 10 a.m.-noon Wednesdays and Thursdays. Email environmental@eur.army.mil. Normal SORT Center hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Saturday and closed holidays. DSN 380-4242, civ. 0621-730-4242.

Alternative: Heidelberg's Recycling Center is open for household hazardous waste turn-in 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Saturday, Bldg. 4830, on Patrick Henry Village. DSN 388-9321, civ. 338-9321.

Self-Help – The Self-Help Store on Funari Barracks at the recycle center compound is open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays and closed German and U.S. holidays. DSN 380-4435, civ. 0621-730-4633.

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.

UPDATED – WIC Office – The Women, Infants and Children Overseas office has further reduced office hours due to transformation and reduced base population. It is open 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays and 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursdays.

Heidelberg

Airport Shuttle Buses – The free shuttle bus service for service members, DOD civilians and their families departing Germany from Ramstein Air Base on the Patriot Express departs Heidelberg **4:20 a.m.** every Tuesday from the Patrick Henry Village Guest House, Bldg. 4527, Grasweg, 69124 Heidelberg. Contact USAG Baden-Württemberg Central Processing Facility in the Community Support Center, Room 180, Bldg. 3850, at the Heidelberg Shopping Center. DSN 370-7343/6711, civ. 06221-57-8399, usarmy.badenwur.usag.mbx.cpf@mail.mil.

The shuttle bus to the Frankfurt Airport departs Heidelberg 7:30 a.m. Monday-Friday from the PHV Guest House and returns to Heidelberg 11 a.m. or 2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and approximately 11 a.m. Saturday if there are Soldiers traveling to Heidelberg. Frankfurt Gateway Reception Center in the Shelton Hotel: DSN 334-6903/6905, civ. 069-6959-73803.

NEW – Community Bank Mobile Van – The Mobile Banking Van will cease service May 11. The last visits to Tompkins Barracks will be May 8 and Gernersheim Army Depot May 9. www.dodcommunitybank.com.

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 will cease on-location support at the end of the school year. Teens can be seen at the Heidelberg Health Center. DSN 371-2622, civ. 0800-376-2223.

Tompkins Gym – The Fitness Center on Tompkins Barracks in Schwetzingen will close on or about July 12. Hours are 5:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday and closed Saturdays, Sundays and U.S. holidays and open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. training holidays. DSN 370-9193, civ. 06221-57-9193.

Review shows no disparities in access to behavioral health care

ERMC Public Affairs

A recent review of access to behavioral health care services throughout the Europe Regional Medical Command shows there is no disparity between access provided to Soldiers who are returning to duty and those who are in the process of leaving the Army for medical reasons.

The ERMC Inspector General conducted a review of behavioral health services at all 17 ERMC military treatment facilities in February and March 2012.

The findings show that Soldiers who are separating from the Army for medical reasons, either through a Medical Evaluation Board or the Integrated Disability Evaluation System, have the same access to treatment for behavioral health issues (like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) as those Soldiers who will be returned to duty. In fact, the review indicated that in some cases, access to care is enhanced for transitioning Soldiers such as those assigned to Warrior Transition Units.

"Taking care of our Soldiers is our top priority," said Brig. Gen. Nadja

West, ERMC commanding general. "We took a thorough look at the behavioral health services available at our facilities in the region and found Soldiers transitioning out of the Army have the same access to care as those returning to duty.

The review also determined that transitioning Soldiers at times have enhanced access as our providers will often go to the WTUs to provide care for Soldiers assigned there."

West initiated the command-wide review after an individual raised concerns that Soldiers at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center who were returning to duty had better access to treatment for behavioral health issues than their counterparts who were in the process of medically separating from the Army.

The review showed that is not the case, and that behavioral health services are available at all military treatment facilities in the region. One specific concern raised was that the Evolution Program, an eight-week intensive outpatient PTSD treatment curriculum at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center designed to help Soldiers in

the European Theater who are struggling with combat stress symptoms, was open only to Soldiers slated to return to duty.

While it is designed primarily for those who will be remaining on active duty, Soldiers early in the process of transitioning out of the Army for medical reasons have also been accepted to the program, the review found.

"If a transitioning Soldier is accepted into the Evolution Program, their separation process stops until they complete the program, because the medical separation process would interfere with the Evolution appointments."

Transitioning Soldiers accepted into the Evolution Program are usually at the beginning of the medical separation process so the impact is minimal.

IG representatives who conducted the review also spoke personally to Soldiers assigned to the WTUs in Europe. The WTU Soldiers interviewed each indicated they had no problems accessing the behavioral health system.

West said the review was the right thing to do given the circumstances.

Bike to Work Day gets community members pedaling

By Samantha Smith

USAG BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG VOLUNTEER CORPS

Community members left their cars in the garage on April 26 and opted for a cleaner alternative: pedal power.

The annual Bike to Work Day event is organized by the Garrison each year to promote healthy lifestyles, cut down on fuel consumption and reduce pollution.

"Bike to Work Day is a great way to raise awareness about alternative transportation during Earth Week," said Pollution Prevention Specialist Samantha Rogers.

Participants gathered at the Burger King parking lot on Patrick Henry Village in the early morning hours and departed at 7 a.m. to pedal the 3.7 miles to Patton Barracks and then on to Campbell Barracks and Nachrichten Kaserne in Heidelberg.

"This year's Earth Week illustrated another high level of involvement throughout the entire Garrison," said Environmental Division Chief Daniel Welch.

"The dedication and commitment to preserving our natural resources in our Garrison illustrates an extreme level of environmental awareness," said Welch.

"Bike to Work Day is a great way to raise awareness about alternative transportation during Earth Week."

-Pollution Prevention Specialist Samantha Rogers.



Samantha Rogers
Environmental Division Chief Daniel Welch shakes hands with Garrison Commander Col. Bryan DeCoster on Bike to Work Day April 26.



Samantha Smith
Capt. Victor Johnson, Headquarters Company commander for the U.S. Army Medical Activity Heidelberg, pauses during Bike to Work Day held April 26.

BW now We're on Facebook!

BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG Serving the Baden-Württemberg Communities
BWnow (USAG Baden-Wuerttemberg)

Connect with community members, ask and answer questions about life in Europe, share photos and more.
Like us and join the discussion!

Our ARMY around the world

For more Army news,
visit www.army.mil



Sgt. John Couffer
Maj. George Mitroka completes the low-crawl obstacle during the Tough Mudder Centurion Challenge at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, April 21.



Jennifer Spradlin
Spc. Brynden Keller, left, assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division, and 1st Lt. Lacey Hamilton, with the 323rd Military Intelligence Battalion, run on a track April 23 in Colorado Springs, Colo. The Soldiers were practicing for the Warrior Games scheduled for May 1-5.



Spc. Rachel Krogstad
Staff Sgt. Derek Cutter, non-commissioned officer in charge of Kandahar Airfield's Entry Control Point Five, 558th Mission Control Team, 143rd Expeditionary Support Command, talks to local national truck drivers on Kandahar Airfield, Kandahar province, Afghanistan April 23.



Markus Rauchenberger
A pair of U.S. Army Stryker vehicles with Comanche Company, 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, perform movement to contact training at the Hohenfels Training Area while participating in their company external evaluations April 25.

GERMAN NEWS

Taxi Fare With Weed

German police detained a man in Munich after he tried to pay for a taxi ride with cannabis, since he was fresh out of cash, police said Sunday. Officers accompanied the 30-year-old home Friday after the taxi driver reported him to the police, and found 31 cannabis plants in his apartment. Police also seized 353 grams (12.5 ounces) of cannabis as well as scales and cannabis oil. He told the police the plants were for his personal consumption, as he did not want to rely on dealers.

Burglar Caught By Ear Print

A suspected German serial burglar has been betrayed by his ears, after he left prints of his aural cavities on the doors of dozens of houses and apartments. The 33-year-old man has been in custody since being arrested after a December 2011 break-in. Police in Hamburg said Sunday they had evidence to tie him to 96 break-ins and break-in attempts between July 2009 and July 2011. The man stole jewelry, cash and electronic appliances, and is said to have caused a total of €500,000 in damages, but he made one error: he reportedly left earprints on the doors while listening to see whether anyone was home. The police said earprints are almost as unique as fingerprints. Most crime scenes are covered with fingerprints of innocent people. Police added they also have fingerprints and DNA evidence from various burglary scenes linking them to the man.

Taking Hike Now Good For You

A study at the University of Halle-Wittenberg – with the German Hiking Association and the physiotherapy department of Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences – now claims hiking is better for humans than previously thought. Eighteen participants, with a mean age of 54, went on biweekly hikes for seven weeks. All participants noted a significant positive impact on weight, Body Mass Index, blood pressure and general levels of stamina. The physical condition of the hikers and the control group was measured before the study and again after the seven weeks had elapsed. While the control group showed no changes, the hikers demonstrated markedly different results. Participants lost an average of 1.3 kilograms and their heart rate during exercise was on average lower by nine beats per minute. Stamina (calculated according to blood chemistry) was also improved, as was coordination, measured by standing on one leg on a wobble-board.

SOURCE: www.thelocal.de



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,

I've been reading your advice a long time. Even during moves, I still read it online and I've even watched you on TV a couple of times. I find myself in a very difficult dilemma that I hope you don't judge me about. I'm not trying to do anyone wrong, especially my husband. He has been dedicated to the military for years, but has not shown any dedication to me or our children. I have not been happy for years, but six months ago, I finally met the love of my life and the man of my dreams. I'll call him Jim.

My husband (I'll call him John) is deployed for the fourth time, this time to Afghanistan. It's like home to him; he loves deployments. I guess it makes him feel like a man. I tried talking to him numerous times. His answer was, "You have a nice house, a nice car, you don't have to work and you can shop whenever you want." John was a good provider, but he sucked as a husband and

father. I felt so lonely and isolated because I wanted my husband and his companionship. He just didn't get it.

With his most recent deployment, I've moved on. The children and I moved back to our hometown before he left, where I started nursing school and met Jim. My children call Jim "Daddy;" they love him, too.

I don't want to be married anymore. I've written an email to my husband telling him I want a divorce, but I haven't sent it yet. I don't love him anymore, but I don't want to do anything to push him over the edge. Should I be worried about this, or should I just push the send button?

Dear John Letter

Dear J-Letter,

If you've been following my column for a very long time, then you know my answer to this. It's "H" no. Don't send the email. You've met Jim and you are in love for the first time in your life. You want a divorce; I get it. You have every right to be happy, but your boundaries are very poor. How can you let your children call another man you barely know "Daddy?" Jeesh lady, you're ticking me off. I get it, your husband was a jerk and you want a divorce, but what difference will a few months make? You can continue to let Jim rock your world; that's your choice. However, I think you should keep your children out of it. Why should you confuse them?

I don't know what a Dear John email will do to your husband. You could very well be placing him at risk, and many other people, too. Don't do it. I'd love to say, don't ever write to me again, but please keep in touch and let me know what you decided to do.

Dear Ms. Vicki,

I am tormented due to an affair I

had 20 years ago. I did not love him and only became involved with him because my self esteem was so low. I was the reason he and his wife split, and I have never been able to forgive myself. I know God has forgiven me, but I can't seem to get past it. How can I successfully let this go?

Forever frustrated

Dear Tormented,

If only we could go back in time and redo one thing, reconsider a decision or change a mistake. I now realize doing so would prevent me from knowing my own human-ness and coming to grips with my own human frailties. We can't keep beating ourselves up about decisions, choices and mistakes we've made.

Think about it this way: our rearview mirrors are small for a reason. If we try to drive forward looking in the rear view mirror, we will surely have a collision, and very quickly.

You had an affair, and from the tone of your letter, it goes against your value system and is something you're not proud of. You feel you caused that divorce, but maybe the affair was another symptom of an even bigger problem in his marriage. After all, many marriages survive infidelity.

It's not right, but if you continue to beat yourself up, it will stop you from moving forward, and you will begin to spiral downward.

You did not do this single-handedly, but I'm glad you're taking responsibility. It's time you stop looking in your rearview mirror and move forward.

It's never too late to start working on your self esteem. Check out the book store's self-help section and seek therapy or spiritual support. Continue to spend time with family and friends who love you. Feel free to use me as a sounding board any time.

Medical Protection System sees major changes

ERMC Public Affairs

Commanders and supervisors will be better able to explain why their Soldiers are non-deployable because of changes taking place in the Army's online reporting system.

A ratings system now being used in the Medical Protection System removes the Medically Non-Deployable and Limited Duty Profile ratings, replacing them with new Deployment Limiting ratings that specify more clearly how long the limitation will last, said Lynette Tatsch, MEDPROS readiness coordinator in Europe Regional Medical Command's Force Health Protection Office.

"The hope is that the new MEDPROS logic will provide better visibil-

ity and granularity, as well as eliminating many of the equivocal categories of MND and LDP as all-encompassing terminology for a number of deployment limitations," Tatsch said.

"In the past, MEDPROS users could not easily identify the reason a Soldier was non-deployable. With the conversion to the DL ratings, they will now have total visibility, including seeing all the reasons those Soldiers who have multiple DL ratings are considered non-deployable," she said.

Previously, the LDP rating required no justification or supporting documentation, and wasn't supported by any regulation or policy, Tatsch explained. Now, LDP ratings will be removed from Soldiers' records and Soldiers who have no other deploy-

ment limiting conditions will convert to a new rating dictated by their current condition.

The new ratings run from DL1 through DL6. DL1 through 5 ratings mean the underlying medical condition will take more than 30 days to correct, while DL6 means the Soldier should be medically ready within 30 days. The DL5 rating is only for pregnant Soldiers so they are not counted twice – as could happen in the past – in the non-deployable population.

Medical providers also use eProfile, an online system for documenting medically limiting conditions. The new MEDPROS changes make it even more critical to ensure that eProfile inputs are done properly, Tatsch said.

"It's important for commanders and

medical staff to understand that all future documentation of pregnancy be done using the pregnancy template in eProfile, since this is the only way the automated system can separate this population from others with temporary profiles greater than 30 days," Tatsch said.

Other changes include a task force build capability in MEDPROS Web Data Entry that allows users to build an individual task force based on unique requirements, and a modification to the Commander Profile Report that allows identification of the profile's origin.

For information, contact Force Health Protection, at DSN 371-2940, civ. 06221-17-2940 or email MEDPROS.europe@amedd.army.mil.

GET OUT! area events

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

May 3

Swimming – The Bellamar swimming pool in Schwetzingen opens its outdoor pool season with a splash. The newly renovated Schwetzingen facility offers fun in and around the pools throughout the summer at the same admission prices as last year.

Floriade 2012 – Explore the World Horticultural Expo in Venlo, The Netherlands, through Oct. 7. Visitors can stroll through a variety of gardens from around the world, see flower shows, a jungle greenhouse, rare trees and sample a variety of foods during their trip. www.floriade.com.

Asparagus Festival – Farmers near Darmstadt host an annual asparagus festival through May 19. Select and sample local asparagus fresh from the field and served in a variety of palate-pleasing ways. Steinbrücker Hof, 64331 Weiterstadt.

Hip-Hop Concert – Tickets are on sale at the Vogelweh Community Center near Kaiserslautern for the Watch the Throne European tour. The rap duo featuring Jay-Z and Kanye West will perform June 5 at the Frankfurt Festhalle. Ticket price includes transportation to and from the concert. DSN 489-7626, civ. 0631-536-7626.

May 4

Fun Forest Adventure Park – The Fun Forest Adventure Park, located in Homburg, offers outdoor fun for all ages. The park features six different courses, two zip lines, a Tarzan Swing, snowboarding in the trees and climbing walls. Smaller adventurers can navigate the park's kid's trail. Kleinottweilerstraße 148, Homburg, Germany, 66424. Civ. 0684-170-30257.

Heidelberg Plays Market – The Heidelberg Plays Market or Heidelberger Stückemarkt features premiere performances by young directors and playwrights. An independent jury awards three prizes, while the audience bestows the spectators' prize overall. Event runs through May 6 at various times and venues across Heidelberg. www.theaterheidelberg.de/festivals/festival/2.

Maimarkt – The Maimarkt, or May Fair, in Mannheim is one of Germany's largest and oldest attractions. More than 1,400 vendors fill the fairground near Mannheim's SAP Arena offering a variety of unique goods. Fairgoers feast on food and drinks from all over the world and enjoy amusement park rides. The fair is open daily 9 a.m.-6 p.m. through May 8. Tickets can be bought in advance or at the box office. www.maimarkt.de/index.php?id=139&L=0%2Fpm%2Ffileadmin%2F (German language only).

Stuttgart Spring Fest – Enjoy one of Europe's biggest springtime parties during Stuttgart's annual Spring Fest at the Cannstatter Wasen fair grounds. The event features rides, side-shows, beer tents and plenty of food and drink stands to satisfy

every taste. Fest is open noon-11 p.m. Monday through Thursday, noon-midnight Friday, 11 a.m.-midnight Saturday and 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday through May 13. www.meier-online.de (German language only).

May 6

Carmen – See the opera "Carmen," performed in French with German subtitles at the National Theater in Mannheim 7 p.m. May 5 and 6 p.m. May 6. www.nationaltheater-mannheim.de.

Robert Glasper Experiment – Catch the jazz, hip-hop and soul group the Robert Glasper Experiment 8 p.m. May 18 at Frankfurt's Club Zoom with special guest Bilal. Tickets: www.worldticketshop.com.

Keith Sweat Concert – Rhythm and Blues singer Keith Sweat will perform at Keller Club in Stuttgart 8 p.m. May 16. Tickets are on sale now. Rotebühlplatz 4, 70173 Stuttgart. www.songkick.com.

Japanese Garden – The Japanese Garden in Kaiserslautern is open for visitors 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. Admission is free for children under 11 and Gartenschau season tickets can also be used to enter the Japanese Garden. www.japanischergarten.de.

Stuttgart Zoo – Take a trip to the Stuttgart Zoo located at the Wilhelma Park, the largest zoological and botanical gardens in Europe. The zoo features newly designed polar bear enclosures and other attractions to delight all ages. Visitors can also stroll through the park and admire the exotic trees, orchids, water lilies and a magnolia grove. <http://affiliates.uso.org/Kaiserslautern>.

Marvin Gaye Tour – Experience the Marvin Gaye Midnight Love "walkumentary" tour. Visitors can purchase a special phone or iPod app to learn more about the late Rhythm and Blues legend and details on his time in Ostend, Belgium. Walking tour features footage of Gaye and interviews with those he knew. www.marvingaye.be (English available).

Bruce Springsteen Concert – Tickets are on sale for the Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band concert 8 p.m. May 24 in Frankfurt's Commerzbank Arena. www.worldticketshop.com.

Tom Petty Concert – After 20 years, rock band Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers returns to Europe. Check out the band in concert 8 p.m. June 30, at the SAP Arena in Mannheim. Tickets: civ. 0621-101-011. www.bb-promotion.com.

May 7

Hubertushof Ranch – Enjoy a true Wild West cowboy experience in Germany. The Hubertushof Ranch offers a range of activities for would-be cowboys and ranchers out there, including travels on horse riding trails, cattle herding, lasso-ing,

and milking cows. Blumensteinstraße 9, Schonau-Geb, Germany, 66996. Civ. 06393-993737.

May 9

Heidelberg – Members of the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut Heidelberg present a lecture by American journalist and philosopher Stephen Cave - Immortal - The Longing for Eternal Life as the Driving Force of our Civilization 8 p.m. Sofienstraße 12, 69115 Heidelberg. Civ. 06221-607-322.

Trier – Travel to the city of Trier during the Holy Robe Pilgrimage. During this time, the Trier Cathedral's most important relic will be on display to the general public for the first time in more than 15 years. Brought to Trier from Jerusalem in the fourth century by St. Helena, the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, the purported Holy Robe of Christ has been on display only on three occasions during the last century: 1933, 1959 and 1996. There will also be time for lunch or exploring the area. <http://affiliates.uso.org/kaiserslautern>.

James Taylor – Singer and songwriter James Taylor performs at the Alte Oper in Frankfurt 8 p.m. May 9. Tickets: www.worldticketshop.com/concerts/james_taylor_tickets.

May 11

Hochspeyer Tour – The Hochspeyer Tourist Office (near Kaiserslautern) offers three guided walks to historical sites in the area, lead by English-spoken tour guides. The tours take participants to Frankenstein Castle, Diemerstein Castle and Villa Denis in the Diemerstein valley. Call the Hochspeyer Tourist Information office to schedule a tour. Civ. 06305-71147 or email info@hochspeyer.rlp.de

May 12

Art Exhibit – Artist Lisbania Perez showcases her artwork at the Village Pavilion Gallery on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg 7 p.m. Exhibit runs through May 27. DSN 388-9421, civ. 06221-338-9421.

Salsa Night – Hit the dance floor as Disc Jockey Bello spins the hottest Salsa music 9 p.m. - midnight at Legends on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg. Enjoy food and mojitos.

May 13

Mother's Day Cruise – Spend Mother's Day relaxing on the Rhine River. Enjoy a castle tour of the Burg Rheinstein, boat cruise, wine tasting and luncheon. There will also be time for shopping and exploring Rudesheim, one of the best known little towns along the Rhine. <http://affiliates.uso.org/kaiserslautern>.

coming to THEATERS

WANDERLUST

(Paul Rudd, Jennifer Aniston) George and Linda are an overextended, stressed out Manhattan couple. After George is downsized out of his job, they find themselves with only one option: to move in with George's awful brother in Atlanta. On the way there, George and Linda stumble upon Elysium, an idyllic community populated by colorful characters who embrace a different way of looking at things. Money? It can't buy happiness. Careers? Who needs them? Clothes? Only if you want them.

(Rated R for sexual content, graphic nudity, language and drug use) 96 minutes.



PLAYING THIS WEEK

Heidelberg, Patrick Henry Village

May 3 - TYLER PERRY'S GOOD DEEDS (PG-13) 7 p.m.
May 4 - SAFE (R) 7 p.m.; SAFE (R) 9:30 p.m.
May 5 - THE MUPPETS (PG) 4 p.m.; SAFE (R) 7 p.m.; WANDERLUST (R) 9:30 p.m.
May 6 - THE MUPPETS (PG) 4 p.m.; ACT OF VALOR (R) 7 p.m.
May 7 - SAFE (R) 7 p.m.
May 8 - WANDERLUST (R) 7 p.m.
May 9 - SAFE (R) 7 p.m.
May 10 - ACT OF VALOR (R) 7 p.m.

Vogelweh, Galaxy

May 4 - THE LUCKY ONE (PG-13) 7 p.m.
May 5 - TYLER PERRY'S GOOD DEEDS (PG-13) 4 p.m.; GHOST RIDER: SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE (PG-13) 7 p.m.
May 6 - THIS MEANS WAR (PG-13) 4 p.m.

Ramstein, Gateway Movieplex

May 3 - THE LUCKY ONE (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m.; THIS MEANS WAR (PG-13) 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m.; TYLER PERRY'S GOOD DEEDS (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:15 p.m.; GHOST RIDER: SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE (PG-13) 11:45 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m.; PUSS IN BOOTS (PG) 11:15 a.m., 1:30 p.m.
May 4 - SAFE (R) 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m., 10:15 p.m.; WANDERLUST (R) 11 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 9:45 p.m.; ACT OF VALOR (R) 4:15 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 9:15 p.m.; PLANET 51 (PG) 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m.
May 5 - SAFE (R) 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m., 10:15 p.m.; WANDERLUST (R) 11:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 9:45 p.m.; ACT OF VALOR (R) 11 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 9:15 p.m.; PLANET 51 (PG) 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m.
May 6 - SAFE (R) 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:45 p.m.; WANDERLUST (R) Noon, 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; ACT OF VALOR (R) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 6:45 p.m.; PLANET 51 (PG) 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m.
May 7 - SAFE (R) 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:45 p.m.; WANDERLUST (R) Noon, 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; ACT OF VALOR (R) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 6:45 p.m.; PLANET 51 (PG) 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m.
May 8 - SAFE (R) 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:45 p.m.; WANDERLUST (R) Noon, 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; ACT OF VALOR (R) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 6:45 p.m.; PLANET 51 (PG) 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m.
May 9 - SAFE (R) 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:45 p.m.; WANDERLUST (R) Noon, 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; ACT OF VALOR (R) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 6:45 p.m.; PLANET 51 (PG) 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 5:30 p.m.
May 10 - SAFE (R) 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:45 p.m.; WANDERLUST (R) 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; ACT OF VALOR (R) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 6:45 p.m.; PLANET 51 (PG) 2 p.m.

THEATER INFORMATION

Patrick Henry Village, Heidelberg, 06221-27-238

Galaxy Theater, Vogelweh, 0631-50017

Gateway Cineplex, Ramstein, 06371-47-5550

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

Mannheim Cineplex (P4 13), CinemaxX (N7, 17), Mannheim, civ. 01805-625466, www.cineplex.de

Mannheim, CinemaxX, Cineplex - English Language movies

May 3-4 MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS 3D (PG-13) 7:45 p.m., 11 p.m. and May 5-6 4:15 p.m., 7:45 p.m. and 11 p.m. at CinemaxX
May 3 - MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS 3D (PG-13) 4:45 p.m., 8 p.m. and May 4-5 4:45 p.m., 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. at Cineplex

community HIGHLIGHTS

Estate Claim

Those with claims on or obligations to the estate of Spc. Manuel J. Vasquez, 172nd Brigade Combat Team, Task Force 2-28 Infantry, should contact summary court martial officer 1st Lt. Jorge Bonilla. DSN 475-4125, civ. 0162-255-7605.

Overseas Housing Survey

Service members assigned to Germany and residing in privately-leased quarters who have drawn Overseas Housing Allowance for at least six months are encouraged to take the annual OHA Utility and Recurring Maintenance Allowance survey by May 11 at <https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/aprutil.cfm>. Spouses of deployed service members are eligible to take the survey, which can influence the housing allowance rate. DSN 370-3888, civ. 06221-57-3888.

Summer Hire Program

The Civilian Human Resources Agency Europe Region is accepting applications until May 20 for the Summer Hire Program, June 18 to July 27. Applicants must be unmarried family members of active duty service members or Department of Defense civilian employees, ages 14-22, who have reached their 14th birthday prior to June 21 and will not turn 23 prior to the end of the program. Jobs include clerical, labor and child development positions. Applications are available at <https://cpolrhp.cpol.army.mil/eur>. Prospective employees must also submit hard copies of employment documents directly to the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center that services their community. DSN 370-8514, civ. 06221-57-8514.

No Fear Training

U.S. Army Europe federal civilian employees have until May 31 to complete Notification of Anti-discrimination and Retaliation online training, or No Fear, on the Army Training Requirement and Recourses System website at <https://www.atrrs.army.mil>. The training, EEO-202, includes applicable rights and remedies for civilian employees under federal anti-discrimination and whistleblower protection laws. Training must be completed every two years. This does not apply to local national and contractor employees. Civ. 06221-57-7226.

Asian Pacific American Heritage

Volunteers are needed to sing, dance and prepare food for the observance of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month throughout May. The programs will be sponsored by the Heidelberg Equal Opportunity working group and the Exchange. DSN 373-7955, civ. 06221-17-7955.

Family and MWR Services Survey

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation recently sent a survey in the mail to determine which Family MWR programs and services are most important and vital to community quality of life. If you receive the survey, please take 15 minutes to complete it. www.mwrgermany.com.

local EMPLOYMENT

Community Bank

Community Bank on the Shopping Center in Heidelberg has part-time openings for customer service representatives and tellers. Candidates must meet work eligibility requirements. Civ. 06221-60-0862.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

KAISERSLAUTERN Education

♦ **Food Safety For Volunteers** – The Landstuhl Regional Medical Center Environmental Health Branch will conduct a Food Safety for Volunteers class 5-7 p.m. May 3 at the Learning Resource Center, Bldg. 3718. Food handlers cards are required for anyone responsible for organizing and supervising food sales fundraising activities. Registration required. DSN 486-8489, civ. 06371-86-8489.

♦ **Resume Writing Workshop** – Army Community Service hosts a resume writing class 10 a.m. May 8 in Bldg. 2917 on Pulaski Barracks. DSN 493-4029, civ. 0631-3406-4029.

♦ **Buying, Selling A Car** – Learn the financial ins and outs of buying or selling a car, how to avoid scam lenders and more 1:30 p.m. May 8 in Bldg. 2891 on Pulaski Barracks. Registration required. DSN 493-4015, civ. 0631-3406-4015.

♦ **Euros And Cents** – Army Community Service presents Euros and Cents 9 a.m., followed by Understanding Your Credit Score 10-11 a.m. May 8 in Bldg. 2891 on Pulaski Barracks. In Euros and Cents, learn about the exchange rate, how and where to pay bills and different payment methods in Germany. In Understanding Your Credit Score, learn how to raise credit scores and obtain lowest interest rates. Registration required. DSN 493-4015, civ. 0631-3406-4015.

♦ **Preparing For Interviews** – Army Community Service teaches interview styles, standard questions, negative speech characteristics and more during a hands-on interview class 1:30 p.m. May 8 in Bldg. 2917 on Pulaski Barracks. Registration required. DSN 493-4029, civ. 0631-3406-4029.

♦ **Smooth Move** – Army Community Service can help with permanent change of station or expiration term of service moves 10 a.m. May 10 in Bldg. 2891 on Pulaski Barracks. DSN 493-4203, civ. 0631-3406-4203.

♦ **USA Jobs** – Receive hands-on instruction and assistance from Army Community Service employment readiness experts on how to find government jobs 10 a.m. May 11 in Bldg. 2917 on Pulaski Barracks. DSN 493-4029, civ. 0631-3406-4029.

♦ **Co-Parenting Class** – Learn to be the best parent you can during the process of divorce or separation and help children maintain a sense of love and normalcy in a class provided by Army Community Service Family Advocacy 5:30 p.m. May 17 in Bldg. 2917 on Pulaski Barracks. Registration required. Civ. 0631-3406-4062.

♦ **Children's German Classes** – Child, Youth and School Services-enrolled youth of all ages can learn basic German vocabulary, sentences and common phrases. Register with

Parent Central Services, DSN 493-4156, civ. 0631-3406-4516 or the One Stop Shop, DSN 486-8943, civ. 06371-86-8943.

Community

♦ **Cinco de Mayo** – Join the fiesta and enjoy drinks, tacos, refried beans and chips and salsa 9 p.m.-2 a.m. May 5 at Armstrong's Club, Bldg. 1036 on Vogelweh Housing. Civ. 0631-354-9986.

♦ **Cinema Sunday** – Enjoy the movie Beverly Hills Chihuahua while snacking on free popcorn 2:30-6:30 p.m. May 6 at Armstrong's Club, Bldg. 1036, on Vogelweh Housing. Free snack bags available for children 12 and under. Civ. 0631-536-6000.

♦ **Military Spouse Appreciation** – Military Spouse Appreciation Day, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. May 8 at Armstrong's Club, Bldg. 1036 on Vogelweh Housing, offers free wellness, empowerment and fitness workshops. Classes include extreme couponing, fitness consultations, financial planning 101 and education on pediatric diabetes and sexually transmitted infections. Lunch buffet available for purchase. DSN 493-4215, civ. 0631-340-4215.

♦ **CAUSE Support Group** – The Community for Autism Understanding, Support and Education (CAUSE), meets 6-7:30 p.m. May 8 at the Vogelweh Elementary School Media Center. This month's topic is Applied Behavior Analysis. Registration required. DSN 493-4094, civ. 0631-3406-4094.

♦ **EDGE! T-shirts** – Youth ages 6-12 and enrolled in Child, Youth and School Services can make their own T-shirts 4-6 p.m. May 9, 16, 23 and 30 at the Landstuhl Library, Bldg. 3810. Registration required by the Friday prior. DSN 493-4516, civ. 0631-3406-4516.

♦ **Military Officers Association** – Active duty, National Guard, Reserve, former and retired commissioned and warrant officers are invited to a First European Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America membership meeting 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. May 12 at the Restaurant Barbarossahof in Esselfurth. alanjolsen@gmail.com.

♦ **Boot Camp For Dads** – New and soon-to-be fathers can attend a free boot camp that helps prepare for raising a child 11 a.m. May 14 in Bldg. 2917 on Pulaski Barracks. Registration required. DSN 493-4203, civ. 0631-3406-4203.

♦ **Dirty Rotten Scoundrels** – KMC Onstage presents Dirty Rotten Scoundrels 7:30 p.m. May 18 and 19, June 1, 2, 8 and 9 and 3 p.m. June 3 and 10 at KMC Onstage, Bldg. 3232 on Kleber Kaserne. Purchase tickets at the Landstuhl One Stop Shop. DSN 486-8943, civ. 06371-86-8943.

HEIDELBERG Education

♦ **ACS Classes** – Applying for a Federal Job (USAJOBS)/Civilian Resume Writing, 9-11 a.m. May 8-9, Information Center, PHV, Village Pavilion Community Center; Financial Readiness Briefing, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. May 9; Bringing Home Baby, 5:30-8:30 p.m. May 9, ACS Annex, PHV, Bldg. 4531, Conference Room; Army Community Service Volunteer Orientation, 10-11 a.m. May 10; 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.

Community

♦ **Trivia Challenge Season** – Bring a team or join one for the new trivia challenge season 7-9 p.m. Thursdays May 3-Aug. 3 at Legends on Patrick Henry Village. The team that gathers the most points by Aug. 30 will win a prize. DSN 388-9570, civ. 06221-338-9570, www.mwrgermany.com.

♦ **Parent's Day, Night Out** – Child, Youth and School Services presents Parent's Night Out 7 p.m.-midnight May 4 and 18 and Parent's Day Out 10 a.m.-4 p.m. May 5 and 19 for CYSS-enrolled children up to fifth grade. Reservations must be made by noon the Thursday prior at Parent Central Enrollment, Bldg. 4443 on Patrick Henry Village. DSN 388-9340, civ. 06221-338-9341.

♦ **Gate Closure** – The Commissary Access Control Point on Patrick Henry Village will be closed 6 a.m.-noon May 5 for a force protection exercise. DSN 388-2585, civ. 06221-338-2585.

♦ **Cinco de Mayo Texas Hold'em** – Legends on Patrick Henry Village will host a Cinco de Mayo Texas Hold'em Party 6 p.m. May 5 with free appetizers and opening day party to kick off the new poker season, which ends Aug. 18. DSN 388-9570, civ. 06221-338-9570, www.mwrgermany.com.

♦ **Skydiving** – Army Outdoor Recreation goes skydiving over Keukenhof Gardens May 6. DSN 388-9282, civ. 06221-338-9282.

♦ **Children's Book Week** – Celebrate Children's Book Week with various activities May 7-13 at the Patrick Henry Village Library. Civ. 06221-57-1740, DSN 370-1740.

♦ **Cultural Club** – The Heidelberg Cultural Club, for those 18 and older, meets 6:30 p.m. May 10 and second Thursdays at the Arts and Cultural Center on Patrick Henry Village. Members visit and attend various cultural sites and activities. DSN 388-9418, civ. 06221-338-9418.

♦ **Great American Trailer Park** – The Roadside Theater on Patton Barracks presents The Great American Trailer Park musical for mature audiences 7:30 p.m. May 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26 and special family

matinee 3 p.m. May 13, 20 and 27. Reservations recommended. DSN 373-5020, civ. 06221-17-5020, www.roadsidetheater.com.

♦ **Mother's Day Brunch** – The Heidelberg Community Spouses Club will host a Mother's Day brunch 10 a.m.-2 p.m. May 13 at the Village Pavilion Community Center. Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will give a rose to every mother who attends. Reservations recommended. DSN 388-9098, civ. 06221-338-9098.

♦ **BOSS Cheap Eats** – Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers serves a free pot luck for all military personnel 5 p.m. May 16 at the Warrior Zone on Patton Bks. DSN 373-5275, civ. 06221-17-5275.

♦ **Last Story Time Of Season** – The last story time of the season for Patrick Henry Village Library will be 11 a.m. May 17. Regular story times will resume after Labor Day. DSN 370-1740, civ. 06221-57-1740.

♦ **Right Arm Night** – Ages 18 and older can enjoy happy hour with their bosses and co-workers 5-7 p.m. May 18 at Legends on Patrick Henry Village. DSN 388-9570, civ. 06221-338-9570, www.mwrgermany.com.

♦ **Prague Express, Czech Beer** – Army Outdoor Recreation on Patrick Henry Village goes to Prague, the Czech Beer Fest and Keukenhof Gardens May 19. DSN 388-9282, civ. 06221-338-9282.

♦ **Kids' Choice Book Party** – Children in grades 1 through 5 can come to the Patrick Henry Village Library for the Kids' Choice Book Party, with games, crafts and more 3:30 p.m. May 23. Registration required. DSN 370-1740, civ. 06221-57-1740.

MANNHEIM Community

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

♦ **TGIF Buffet** – Enjoy food 6:30 p.m. and stay for variety music 9 p.m.-2 a.m. May 4 and every Friday at the Top Hat Club on Benjamin Franklin Village. DSN 380-9370, civ. 0621-730-9370.

♦ **Story Time** – Parent to Parent and the Mannheim Library Support Office offer toddlers and preschoolers stories and a craft 10:30-11:30 a.m. May 16 and first and third Wednesdays in the Army Community Service Satellite Office, Bldg. 246, on Sullivan Barracks. DSN 385-2688, civ. 0621-730-2688.

♦ **Community Yard Sale** – A community yard sale is scheduled 10 a.m.-2 p.m. May 19 at Grant Circle on Benjamin Franklin Village. Tables are available for rent from Heidelberg Outdoor Recreation. DSN 388-9282, civ. 06221-338-9282.

Detours and back roads to a dream

A USAREUR Soldier dreams of becoming an Olympian

By Spc. Adam Garlington
USAREUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

John Roland Rene grew up in the northwestern part of D.C., referred to by locals as "Uptown," with a dream of fighting for his country in an Olympic boxing ring.

Jean Rene, his father and once All-Marine boxer, started training him when he was 5 years old. His mother, Michelle, used to take him to Midtown Youth Academy, a local boxing gym. There, Eugene R. Hughes, Sugar Ray Leonard's former youth trainer, taught him to box.

In 2001, a 20-year-old Rene decided that the best way to enhance his skills was to join an organization with a distinguished history and tradition of creating professional fighters: the U.S. Army.

"The Army trains you to never quit," Rene said, thinking back on his reasons for joining. "Not only would it contribute immensely to my boxing skill, but it would refine me as a man and a human being."

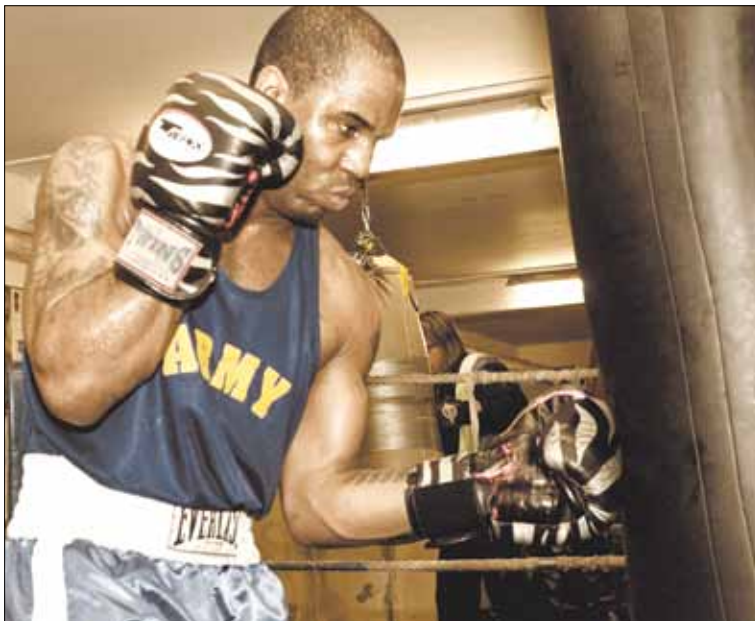
Following basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia, Rene went to advanced individual training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. After graduating AIT, he was assigned to the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, Washington.

After several deployments and other setbacks to his boxing career, Rene, now a sergeant, showcased his potential in the ring by winning the Installation Management Command-Europe Championship in September 2010 and placing third at the 2011 All-Army Boxing Team tryouts at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., in February 2011.

Then, he placed second at the 2012 All-Army Boxing Team tryouts, which qualified him for the 2012 USA Boxing National Championships that were held Feb. 27 through March 3 at Fort Carson, Colo.

Unfortunately, two weeks before his debut at the USA Boxing National Championships, Rene received devastating news. Josh, his 20-year-old brother, passed away from cancer on February 14.

"The last time I saw Josh, he looked pretty bad, but I didn't notice it because of the way he carried himself," Rene said. "I got used to him being able to recover



Andreas Ewer

Sgt. John Roland Rene works the heavy bag in preparation for the 2012 USA Boxing National Championships held Feb. 27 through March 3 at Fort Carson, Colo.

"The Army trains you to never quit"

-Sgt. John Roland Rene

from his sickness, but this last time, he died on Valentine's Day, and it hit me hard. I thought I could still fight, but once I saw the memorial, I couldn't do it."

After Josh's funeral, Rene said he reflected on his younger brother's life and the way he lived while battling cancer. This inspired

Rene to pursue his boxing dream with even more passion.

Even though he didn't qualify for the summer 2012 Olympics in London, Rene has hopes for 2016. "If I make it to the Olympics, it will be beyond a dream," said Rene, who credits the Army with teaching him how to move forward while dealing with adversity.

"Now, every time I'm in the gym, I'm fighting like it's the very last time," said Rene, "because I know that's what Josh would do."

Command sergeant major runs Heidelberg half marathon

Staff Report

Sunday's 31st SAS Heidelberg half marathon saw the participation of USAG Baden-Württemberg's own Command Sgt. Maj. Annette Weber.

Every year, Heidelberg hosts thousands of runners who make their way around the old town and through the surrounding communities in this 13.1 mile (21.1 km) race.

The race is challenging as it includes several steep ascents on either side of the Neckar River.

Running as a member of the Heidelberg city team, this was the first time Weber competed in the race. She finished in 2 hours and 13 minutes.

The overall winner was Ulrich Benz, who finished with a time of 1 hour and 15 minutes.



Linda Steil

USAG Baden-Württemberg Command Sgt. Maj. Annette Weber coasts alongside more than 3,500 other runners during the 31st SAS Heidelberg half marathon Sunday.

staying ACTIVE

Heidelberg Softball Clinic and Tournament

There will be a Heidelberg Softball Clinic and Tournament May 8-12, with an officials clinic 6-9 p.m. May 8-11 at the Heidelberg Sports Office, Bldg. 128, on Patton Barracks. The Tournament is May 5. DSN 373-8032, civ. 06221-178032.

Spring Hunting Course

The Rod and Gun Club's spring hunting course will take place 6-8 p.m. May 9-June 30 for U.S. citizens 18 and older at the club, an der Bundesstraße 291 in Oftersheim. Participants can learn German traditions and the European way of hunting and will be eligible to apply for a German hunting license upon course completion. Civ. 06202-51193, www.mwrgermany.com.

AER Golf at Woodlawn

The Army Emergency Relief Golf Tournament takes place May 11 at the Woodlawn Golf Course on Ramstein Air Base to support the AER campaign. DSN 493-4015, civ. 0631-3406-4221.

Dog, Human 5K Fun Run

Dogs and humans of all ages can participate in a Dog and Human 5K Fun Run with registration starting 8:30 a.m. and run start 9 a.m. May 12 at the Patrick Henry Village Commissary in Heidelberg. Non-dog owners also welcome. DSN 370-6350, civ. 06221-57-6350, www.mwrgermany.com.

Kaiserslautern Softball, Slow Pitch

Units wanting to enter a softball team must sign up by May 16. Coaches meeting will be 6 p.m. May 16 at Rhine Ordnance Fitness Center, Bldg. 172. Those looking to play slow pitch softball with the local players should register by May 25. DSN 493-2086, civ. 0631-3406-2086.

Body Building and Figure Invitational

Men and Women can compete May 19 at a Body Building and Figure Invitational. Exhibition is 11 a.m. and evening show begins 6 p.m. Enter the competition or buy tickets at the Kaiserslautern High School Auditorium, Bldg. 2001, on Vogelweh. DSN 493-2088, civ. 0631-3406-2088.

Summer Basketball Camp in Heidelberg

A Wilson Swiss Allstar Basketball Camp for boys and girls ages 8-19 will take place in Heidelberg Aug. 12-18 featuring special guests NBA player DeMarcus Cousins with the Sacramento Kings, Mike Weinar from the Dallas Mavericks, top-level European coaches and (former) pro players. Jordan McCabe, a 13-year-old ball wizard, will be the special guest camper. Sign up through camp website at www.germanbasketballcamp.com. For information, e-mail info@germanbasketballcamp.com or see http://espn.go.com/blog/truehoop/post/_/id/6528/a-basketball-camp-in-switzerland. Civ. 0767-572-141.

Paintball Play Days

ID card holders ages 16 and up and non-ID card holders 18 and up can play paintball rain or shine at the Rod and Gun Club in Oftersheim, an der Bundesstraße 291. Units and groups: noon-4:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays; open play 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturdays and 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sundays. Field fees include marker, mask and goggles. DSN 06202-51193, civ. 06202-605644, www.mwrgermany.com.

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu

ID card holders 18 and older can learn the art of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu while learning how to stay fit with this time-honored self-defense technique 5-7 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays at the Arts and Cultural Center on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg. The course emphasizes physical fitness, mental and spiritual focus, self-discipline and personal enhancement through camaraderie and respect for others. Participants should bring their own Judo or Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Gi. No experience is required. DSN 388-9418, civ. 06221-338-9418, www.mwrgermany.com.

Fair spotlights scientific wonders from 'A to Z'

By Sue Aldaffer
PHES STAFF

Nearly 600 students and members of the Heidelberg community gathered at Patrick Henry Elementary School in Heidelberg April 25 to celebrate Science, Technology, Engineering and Math week.

STEM is a Department of Defense Dependents School incentive. During the science fair, students and families traveled to various stations placed in alphabetical order and featuring experiments, displays and activities.

Children and families could view the stars through telescopes, crawl into a Star Lab, maneuver robots around a grassy area, examine the body parts of a pig, view microscopic cells, hold a praying mantis or millipede, learn about plant behavior, build towers with toothpicks and marshmallows and create a tornado or lava lamp.

The fair was a community event supported by members of the 720th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, dental and medical personnel



Linda Steil

Students from Patrick Henry Village Elementary school in Heidelberg take turns examining a tray containing pig parts during the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math week science fair April 25 at the school.

from U.S. military medical facilities, military police, personnel from the recycling center, members of the German Waste Management plant, stu-

dents from the Advanced Placement Physics Class at Heidelberg High School, parents, students and teachers.

DONOVAN

continued from page 1

Province – where he helped train Afghan police, conducted security patrols and served on a quick reaction force.

On Jan. 13, 2010, while on a convoy, Donovan overheard chatter on his company's radio frequency – Soldiers from his platoon were hit by an improvised explosive device.

Donovan admired Staff Sgt. Daniel Merriweather, a squad leader who led from the front, Donovan said. Merriweather, 25, of Collierville, Tenn., and Pfc. Geoffrey Whitsitt, 21, of Taylors, S.C. were killed when an insurgent detonated the IED. Another Soldier, the gunner, was severely injured. Afterward, Donovan helped carry his fallen comrades to an awaiting aircraft – “one of those moments in the Army you'll never forget,” he said.

Donovan now serves in civilian clothes, conducting investigations. In Kaiserslautern, he passed a local board, earning NCO of the Quarter. At U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg, the next higher command, he earned NCO of the Year.

IMCOM-Europe's best warrior competition includes a physical training test, weapons qualification, a 12-mile road march with a 35 pound rucksack, day and night land navigation courses, written tests and essays – plus a board appearance.

In 2011, when Donovan ran the entire road march without slowing for water, it cost him dearly. “Not drinking water led to cramping,” Donovan said,

looking back at his misjudgment. “By that point, I don't think any amount of water would have helped.”

Back in Kaiserslautern, Donovan endured good-natured ribbing from fellow Soldiers, who stacked water bottles on his desk and hung pictures of intravenous solution on office walls.

He kept the water bottles, looking at them every day for nearly a year, promising himself to return to the competition and win.

That meant again winning successive boards in Kaiserslautern and Heidelberg.

Meanwhile, he shed 20 pounds and practiced road marching. In April, he returned to Grafenwöhr, facing the same competition cadre who said, “You're back. Drink water,” Donovan said.

“I had to live up to those promises,” Donovan said. “In my heart, I knew I had what it took to win this.”

As dawn's first light crept across the Bavarian countryside, Donovan shouldered his 35-pound rucksack and took up a running pace along the same route that broke him nearly a year earlier.

This time he planned ahead, drinking a canteen of water every three miles.

Deep thoughts motivated Donovan along the route. Since losing the previous year, he'd gone through a divorce and his grandfather died.

He still was grieving the loss of friends in combat. Under the weight of full combat gear, he paced himself against another Soldier running

ahead. By the halfway point, Donovan gained, determined to finish first. When the Soldier slowed to a walk, Donovan blew past.

“Dude, you're a beast,” the Soldier called out.

“I just think I got a second wind,” Donovan humbly replied.

Crossing the finish at 2 hours, 20 minutes, Donovan was exhausted. He broke down, just a little.

“For the first time in my life, I got emotional based on my accomplishment, shedding a few tears,” Donovan said.

Command Sgt. Maj. Barry Maieritsch, IMCOM Europe Region's senior enlisted leader, greeted Donovan at the finish.

A year earlier, when Donovan fell out of the competition, he promised Maieritsch to return.

“That's what life is all about, taking the knock, learning the lesson and driving on,” Maieritsch said.

Donovan ambitiously swept through the land navigation course, where he faced defeat a year earlier. During common Soldier tasks, such as first aid and radio communication, he remained focused.

By the following morning, he stood in his dress uniform before sergeants major at the formal board.

“The feeling of accomplishment had already hit,” Donovan said. “I wanted to finish this year's competition, win or lose, just finish it.”

During an April 17 ceremony in Heidelberg, Donovan stood stoically among fellow competitors as his name

SCHOOL

continued from page 1

◆ Sponsor and spouse's current email addresses for correspondence.

◆ Local and stateside emergency contact information.

School registration is an annual requirement by Department of Defense regulation to determine continued eligibility for school enrollment.

It is a critical activity for schools, since funding and staffing authorizations are based upon enrollment projections and student enrollment.

Early registration also allows schools to determine if they can support students of contractors and “space available” families who contribute to the military mission.

For information, call the Heidelberg District Office, DSN 388-9383, civ. 06221-759-02312.

Kaiserslautern's pre-registration event was March 26- April 5, but parents can still register at their child's respective school(s).

To expedite the process, parents can visit www.kaisdso.eu.dodea.edu/offices/registration/registration.htm.

was announced as 2012's NCO of the Year for the region. Before the ceremony, Kathleen Marin, IMCOM Europe Region director, spoke candidly with the Soldiers about what they achieved.

“It tested you physically, mentally and academically. It tested your poise and maturity,” Marin said. “This is what we need from our Soldiers, a well-rounded look. You're the whole package and we're so proud of you. You're all winners.”

Over the past few months, fellow Soldiers watched as Donovan prepared himself, doing extra physical training, road marches, studying Army manuals and getting his uniform prepared.

Donovan sets a very high standard for himself physically, mentally and professionally, said Sgt. Raymond Engstrom, an MP who works with him at U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern.

“This was his competition and he was going to win no matter what,” Engstrom said. “It's a proud moment for such a small unit. It's raised the bar.”

As for Donovan, he's committed to competing. But he also learned a valuable lesson that he hopes other Soldiers will understand from hearing his story.

“Resiliency is [the] most important thing an NCO can have,” Donovan said. “You don't learn unless you fail at times.”

Editor's Note: Donovan was also named IMCOM NCO of the year at a ceremony in San Antonio April 26. He will now go on to compete at the All-Army competition later this year.