



Eric Steen

**Kathleen Marin (right), the Installation Management Command Europe Region director, hands off the colors to Col. John P. Stack, the incoming commander of U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, during a change of command ceremony July 23.**

## Stack takes reins as garrison commander

**By Susan Huseman**

*USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office*

**C**ol. John P. Stack assumed leadership of U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart from Col. Carl D. Bird during a change of command ceremony held July 23 on the Panzer Barracks' parade field.

Bird, who took command of the garrison on July 19, 2010, will now serve as the assistant commandant at the U.S. Army Quartermaster School at Fort Lee, Va.

Under a brilliant blue, cloudless sky, U.S. and German VIPs, colleagues, garrison employees, friends and family gathered to bid farewell to the former garrison leader and welcome the new commander.

Kathleen Marin, the Installation Management Command Europe Region director, presided over a ceremony that included opera singer Robert Chafin,

a cousin of the outgoing commander, who sang the U.S. and German anthems.

The 85th Army Band from Arlington Heights, Ill., shared the parade grounds with a formation of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, which reflected the joint nature of the Stuttgart military community.

Acknowledging the challenge of overseeing an Army garrison in a joint environment, Marin said that the mission is "as complex as it is important — providing support to some of the most important organizations championing liberal democracy and security, like the United States European Command and United States Africa Command."

Bird's leadership, she said, ensured that the garrison provided "the right level of support at the right time ... with sustained excellence."

**See *Stack takes reins* on page 4**

## Information fair to highlight local resources, services, clubs

**By Susan Huseman**

*USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office*

**I**t's never easy settling into a new community. That's why if you've recently moved to the Stuttgart military community, you may want to attend the C.A.R.E. Fair.

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's annual Community Activities, Registration and Education Fair, set for Aug. 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Exchange Shopping Mall on Panzer Kaserne, offers community members the opportunity to learn about the many programs and services available to them.

More than 60 garrison, fraternal and special interest organizations will be represented, from the health and dental clinics to the German-American Women's Club to local PTA groups, according to Martha Povich, the events manager for USAG Stuttgart Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

"The C.A.R.E. Fair offers community members the opportunity to connect with one another, our community resources and organizations, and share information. It will help a newcomer transition more easily into the best community in all of USAREUR and help them discover who makes up the fabric of what makes Stuttgart so great," Povich said.

Visitors to the fair will be able to learn about employment, volunteer and educational opportunities, local banking services and how to save money with the Utility Tax Avoidance Program. Other groups, such as the Stuttgart Community Spouses Club, Mothers of Preschoolers, and the Piranhas swim team, will also participate.

In addition, newcomers may discover some needed household items at the Family and MWR-hosted flea market that will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the sidewalk outside of the Exchange. More than 40 families will participate.

### Meet Paralympic swimmers at the C.A.R.E. Fair

Stuttgart military community members will also be able to meet the U.S. Paralympic swim team during the C.A.R.E. Fair.

USAG Stuttgart was chosen by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense to host the team Aug. 16-27 as it prepares for the 2012 Paralympic Games in London.

Nearly 4,000 athletes from almost 150 countries are expected to compete in 20 sports at the 2012 Paralympic Games.

For more information on the Paralympic Games, visit [www.london2012.com](http://www.london2012.com).

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### Fallen heroes remembered

*More than 300 runners turned out for this year's Run to Remember July 21 and honored 253 service members who made the ultimate sacrifice.*



**Page 7**

### Kids aim for the sky during VBS

*School wasn't in session, but 221 children flooded the halls of Patch Elementary School during the USAG Stuttgart Religions Support Office-sponsored VBS.*





## Commander's Column

# New garrison commander privileged to serve community

Commentary by Col. John P. Stack  
USAG Stuttgart commander

First, I'd like to say it is my privilege to serve the units, service members, families, civilians and retirees of this community. I look forward to leading the garrison in delivering services that exceed your expectations and set the standards for other garrisons in Europe.

I want to thank the Stuttgart military community for the warm welcome that my family and I received at the garrison change of command ceremony last month. Thanks to all those who had a role in the planning and execution of the event.

I was honored that so many key leaders, both U.S. and German, took the time out of their busy schedules to attend.

I'm learning that the garrison has great relationships with our host nation neighbors and partners, and I look forward to forging even stronger associations in the future, as we work together to tackle common problems.

Although my family and I have only been here



Col. Stack

a short time, we already count ourselves very lucky to live and work in such a great place, and we intend to get out and enjoy this beautiful country and its surroundings.

Like most service men and women in today's military, I have had the opportunity to travel extensively throughout the world.

This travel and exposure to people across the globe has enabled me to appreciate what Pulitzer Prize winning author Thomas L. Friedman describes in his book, "The World is Flat": that we live in an increasingly globalized and interconnected world where inexpensive and robust transportation and communications technology allows us to travel anywhere on the planet within hours and to video conference with others within seconds.

This globalization requires us to work closer than ever with other nations to effectively deal with the myriad of challenges the world faces.

Both the U.S. Africa and European Commands perform vital notes for our own nation in this regard as they work tirelessly to maintain our critical alliances and forge close relations with nations throughout Europe and Africa.

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart is proud to support these endeavors by providing the Stuttgart military community with safe and secure facilities.

But just as our increasingly globalized world brings opportunities, it also presents challenges, including the phenomenon of terrorism.

Being a part of an overseas installation requires that we all work together to maintain good awareness and vigilance, and the garrison teams up closely with installation units and organizations to protect our service members and families.

This month, as the Army observes Antiterrorism Awareness Month, I urge community members to focus on the importance of individual situational awareness and protective measures, and to become familiar with the Army iWATCH and suspicious activity reporting procedures. You can learn more on page 10 of this issue.

The garrison is also proud to provide many quality services that enhance mission readiness.

In order to understand my staff, what they do and what I can do to make their work more effective, I

have been frequenting garrison facilities and meeting the workforce. I'm also meeting with unit commanders to gain a better appreciation of the challenges they face and how we can support them.

I want to make things better, and I will certainly rely on feedback from units and community members to help me and the hardworking garrison workforce improve our delivery of service.

I consider the Interactive Customer Evaluation program my weekly after action review of whether or not we are providing the level of service expected of us. So please, use it as a tool to communicate with me and the garrison staff. Hard copy ICE cards can be found at any of our facilities, or your comments can be submitted online at [www.stuttgart.army.mil](http://www.stuttgart.army.mil), under the "Feedback" tab.

When you visit the garrison website, you might notice that we recently revamped it to improve information delivery of our great services, programs and events.

And to help service members and their families navigate through the challenges of permanent change of station moves, we've also improved how we present relocation information on the web.

I encourage everyone to join us on our new webpage and on Facebook. There is a lot of timely and useful information to help you get the most of your assignment to Germany.

Beyond a PCS move, service members also face challenges when they transition out of the military. And as the military draws down over the next several years, it is estimated that approximately 250,000 service members will separate.

As a result, the Defense Department recognized the need for a redesigned Transition Assistance Program to provide service members with the tools and opportunities to be "career ready" for civilian employment.

Currently a pilot program at seven stateside installations, DOD and its agency partners will coordinate the delivery of an improved Transition Assistance Program to 250 military installations worldwide. Stay tuned for details.

Thanks again for the warm reception. My family and I are thrilled to be here in Stuttgart, and we look forward to hearing from you in the future.

## THE CITIZEN

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*Sgt. Joseph Bunting, 554th MP Company, cheers Max Tortorelli, 11, across the finish line of the fourth annual Run to Remember held on Panzer Kaserne July 21. Tortorelli took second place in the 5K for his age and gender group.*

## Hundreds of fallen heroes honored in annual Run to Remember

Story & photo by Mark J. Howell  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

**S**gt. Jose “Pepe” Escobedo, of Albuquerque, N.M., died of injuries suffered during a non-combat operation in Iraq in 2009. But he and hundreds of others who have fallen have not been forgotten.

Veronica Carreon, a Heidelberg spouse who made the trip to Stuttgart for the fourth annual Run to Remember, pinned a photo of Escobedo, her cousin, to her shirt and loaded her iPod with his favorite music. She credited him for helping her get through a 13.1 mile half-marathon.

“Around mile 10, I started to get really hot,” Carreon said. “I said, Hey Pepe, where’s the rain? And just a few minutes later, it did.”

More than 350 participants laced up for the half marathon and 5K run, a collaborative event between 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), and U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart’s Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation — created to honor and remember heroes who have fallen since 9/11.

Participants who signed up for the race were also able to submit names of fallen heroes they wanted to have recognized and included on the event T-shirt.

The names of 253 heroes were read (only 30 were submitted the first year) and honored during a somber pre-race opening ceremony, which was dedicated to Master Sgt. Danial “Slim” Adams, a Stuttgart Soldier who was killed in action on Sept. 13, 2011, and is the most recent casualty of 1/10 SFG(A). Master Sgt. Adams’ wife Melany ran this year’s half marathon in his honor.

Morgan Mahlock, a Patch High School senior and member of its cross country team, took first place overall in the women’s 5K for the second year in a row. She, along with many other runners, commented that this year’s course was tougher than previous years, as it included a long, steep hill just

before the final stretch.

“Half of it is mental,” Mahlock said. “Your body has to be ready, but your mind needs to be in it, too.”

The idea for the event came from the minds of 1/10th Soldiers, who had over 100 runners participate this year. The unit worked with Family and MWR to create the first event in 2009 to recognize their fallen comrades.

“We’ve been at war for so long, that almost all of us know someone who has fallen in battle,” said Capt. Anthony Heisler, Headquarters and Support Company commander, 1/10th SFG(A). “I think an event like this offers a great opportunity to honor them and show solidarity.”

The 1/10th SFG(A) Family Support Group also benefitted from the race by sponsoring a pre-race pasta dinner and selling refreshments after the race, which helped to raise funds for upcoming events, added Heisler.

Due to its theme and the half marathon option, the Run to Remember has become the most popular annual running event in the Stuttgart military community, according to Family and MWR officials.

“It’s a very moving event,” said Carreon, who came from Heidelberg and ran to remember her cousin “Pepe.” “Every community should do something like this.”

### 2012 Run to Remember results

**Half marathon, overall men:** Anthony Benitez, 1:23:24; Mitchell Bailey, 1:27:22; Kurt Barkei, 1:28:37. **Half marathon, overall women:** Jeannette Derner, 1:40:42; Erica Barkei, 1:41:30; Melissa Silva, 1:51:25. **Half marathon, team:** U.S. Africa Command J5, 6:39:53; 1/10th Special Forces Alpha Company, 7:16:43; The Outcasts, 8:09:47. **5K, overall men:** Connor Messerschmidt, 19:21; Samuel Taylor, 19:42; Jeremy Digioia, 20:10. **5K, overall women:** Morgan Mahlock, 21:22; Chloe Kelsey, 23:17; Lauren Barton, 23:33.

## News & Notes

### Lithium battery update

Items that contain lithium batteries can now be mailed to the States via military mail, however they may not be mailed here. This is due to the type of aircraft being used to move the mail. From Germany to the U.S., military aircraft are used, while commercial flights are used to bring mail to Europe.

The May 16 ban issued by the International Civil Aviation Authority that prohibits the shipping of lithium batteries applies to commercial aircraft.

If shipping items with lithium batteries to the U.S., there is a specific process to follow. When labeling the box for mailing, your CMR address cannot be used as the return address. Instead, you must use a valid stateside address, different from the one being used as for the recipient. This applies to all states, except Alaska, which will remain under the ban.

The U.S. Postal Service anticipates that on Jan. 1, 2013, the International Civil Aviation Authority ban will be lifted and customers will be able to mail specific quantities of lithium batteries internationally (to include APO addresses). Officials warn that this is subject to change.

For specific details and further instructions, visit your Army Post Office.

### German Kantine set to open on Patch Barracks Aug. 13

The new German Kantine on Patch Barracks is set to open Aug. 13. The Kantine, located in Building 2386, will be open Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and will serve breakfast, lunch and snacks. The facility will retain the name Black Stallion Inn.

### Soccer team wins

Congratulations to the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart community-level soccer team. The team took first place in the 2012 IMCOM-Europe Soccer Official’s Clinic Tournament held June 16 in Ansbach. Quincey Collins, a contractor with U.S. European Command, was selected Most Valuable Player.

### Stuttgart Girl Scout earns highest award

Tyrha Delger, 17, received the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest and most prestigious award that a Girl Scout can earn, on June 16. Delger, a Patch High School senior and a member of Girl Scout Troop 056, designed a cultural research project for Patch Elementary fifth-graders as her Gold Award project.

### DeCA scholarship winners announced

Congratulations to local students Elizabeth Derner, Heather Hoffman and Sydney Loy, who were announced as winners of the Scholarships for Military Children Program.

Each was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship. More than 5,000 students worldwide applied for the scholarships.



## Ask a JAG

Editor's Note: Do you have a legal question you would like to see answered in a future edition of The Citizen? If so, contact "Ask a JAG" at [andrew.j.rouchka.mil@mail.mil](mailto:andrew.j.rouchka.mil@mail.mil).

**By Capt. Andrew Rouchka (U.S. Army)**  
*Stuttgart Law Center*

**Q: I need to get a personal cell phone. Should I sign a contract or buy a prepaid phone?**

**A:** From a legal perspective, your safest bet is to buy a prepaid phone because you won't form a binding legal relationship with your provider. However, your personal needs may warrant a contract that can save you money in the long run, especially if you want a smart phone. Be careful though, as there are some common pitfalls.

Under German law, a contract renews automatically unless a party cancels it. You'll make an expensive mistake if you assume that a two-year contract, which just covers your tour in Germany, lasts for only two years. The two-year period means simply that neither party is allowed to cancel for the first two years. Normally, you can cancel the contract with written notice at least three months before the contract is up for renewal. In fact, you could submit your cancellation notice on the first day of the contract, but if you wait until the last day you'll be on the hook for another year. Please note, this applies to other contracts, as well (e.g., discount cards for German trains, or "Bahncards").

You could also find yourself in a jam if you lose or break your phone, as this does not release you from your contractual obligations or allow you to cancel the contract early. Also, the company will probably replace the SIM card for a fee, but you'll have to buy a new phone unless you have insurance that will pay for it.

We recommend for several reasons that you carefully read any contract before signing it. First, the companies change their contracts constantly, offering promotions but sometimes also charging fees or limiting your ability to cancel. Second, you cannot rely on what the salesperson tells you, especially if it conflicts with a clause of the contract. Third, you'll be held to the terms of the contract, whether you read and understand it or not. Take the time to get it translated if necessary and make sure you know what you're signing.

Finally, don't assume you'll be able to terminate the contract early with military orders. Here in Germany, without the protections of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, you're left with the terms of your individual contract. Some contracts contain a "military clause," but most do not.

In summary, your decision depends on your individual needs and circumstances. You might save money using a contract, but make sure you know what you're getting into.

*This column is not intended as individual or specific legal advice. If you have specific issues or concerns, you should consult a judge advocate at 421-4152/civ. 0711-729-4152.*



**Col. John P. Stack (from right), the incoming USAG Stuttgart commander; Kathleen Marin, the IMCOM Europe regional director; and Col. Carl D. Bird, the outgoing commander, render honors as the U.S. and German anthems are played during the change of command ceremony July 23.**

Angie Hoffmann



Eric Steen

**Staff Sgt. Victor M. Ortiz, USAG Stuttgart's 2012 NCO of the Year, presents Petrina Stack, wife of incoming garrison commander Col. John P. Stack, with a bouquet of yellow roses.**



Angie Hoffmann

**Members of the 85th Army Band, from Arlington Heights, Ill., play "The Army Goes Rolling Along" at the end of the ceremony July 23.**

# Stack takes reins . . . . .

*Continued from page 1*

During an era of increased scrutiny in military spending, Marin commended Bird's achievements in adapting garrison operations to increase its efficiency and effectiveness.

"Carl ... understands the importance of making intelligent investments for sustainable prosperity not only today, but also tomorrow," she said.

Marin detailed Bird's money-saving accomplishments that have saved the garrison over \$1.2 million: the replacement of steam heating lines and water lines; the installation of LED street lights, and motion detection lights in public toilets and administrative facility hallways, and the reduction of inefficiencies in weekend operations at the Patch Barracks Dining Facility.

"Managing a garrison of this size and complexity cannot be done alone," Marin said. She added that Bird's spouse Hope was a valued partner with an exceptional record of service — active as a Girl Scout leader, a volunteer for Army Community Service, and a senior advisor to the American Red Cross, United Service Organizations and the German-American Women's Club.

Marin thanked both for their service to military members and their families.

"Your service is a source of inspiration for me personally and for many of us here," she said.

She then welcomed Stack and his wife Petrina, and children Mikeal, Dalton and Liz.

Marin said that while Stack brings a global perspective and proven leadership skills to the garrison,

"... there is no more challenging time than now to lead an Army garrison, especially in Europe.

"I'll expect you to ask the questions as you chart a course for the future here in the Stuttgart, and take up the mantle of leadership in this chapter of the Stuttgart legacy."

In his farewell address, Bird started by recounting a lighthearted story about his dog Casey. Soon, though, his voice cracked with emotion as he credited the accomplishments of the garrison to the support he received from the leaders of EUCOM, AFRICOM, U.S. Army Europe, IMCOM Europe, the tenant units and surrounding German communities.

He also acknowledged the efforts of the garrison employees. "The garrison is staffed by professionals who understand their mission is to deliver superior services and support to the community. I'd like to give my whole-hearted thanks to my directors who make that happen on a daily basis through the dedication and hard work of all their employees," said Bird.

Bird turned the podium over to Stack, who thanked the guests, family and friends for attending, as well as the Birds for their leadership and commitment to the Stuttgart military community.

Stack said he was eager to begin his mission.

"I look forward to forging a great working relationship with all the organizations and units in this community, as well as with our German partners throughout Stuttgart. I am also looking forward to leading this hard-working garrison team," he said.

Stack is not new to garrison operations, having served as garrison commander of Picatinny Arsenal, N.J., from 2007 to 2010.



Learn to communicate

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Equal Employment Opportunity Office will host a brown bag workshop Aug. 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on building effective communications in the workplace. While this session is recommended for managers and supervisors, everyone is welcome to attend. The class will be held at Army Community Service, in Room 222, Building 2915, on Panzer Kaserne.

To register, or for more information, send an email to [usagstuttgart-teeo@eur.army.mil](mailto:usagstuttgart-teeo@eur.army.mil).

Register for college

University of Maryland University College Europe will hold registration for the fall session I through Aug. 19, with classes beginning on Aug. 20.

Book and new student scholarships are available.

For more information on registration, book awards or field study classes, contact the local UMUC Europe field representative at 431-2303/civ. 07031-15-2303 or visit [www.ed.umuc.edu](http://www.ed.umuc.edu).

Vehicle Reg closures

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Vehicle Registration Office will close at noon Aug. 31 to conduct its monthly inventory. Vehicle Registration is also scheduled to close on Sept. 3 for Labor Day and on Sept. 7 to allow its local national workforce to attend an annual outing.

For more information, call 431-2833/07031-15-2833 or visit [www.stuttgart.army.mil](http://www.stuttgart.army.mil) and click on "Directorates" then "Emergency Services."

Health clinic announces closure for Aug. 24

The Stuttgart Army Health Clinic and Dental Clinic will be closed Aug. 24 for an organizational day.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Back to school

Julie McGill (from left), the Patch Elementary School secretary, assists Concetta Young in registering her son, De Antwan, 6, for first grade, while his sister Viviana, 3, waits patiently. The administrative offices of all area schools are open, and sponsors can simply walk in to register. For more information, visit [www.eu.dodea.edu](http://www.eu.dodea.edu).

Susan Huseman

For immediate health care needs, call the Nurse Advice Line at civ. 00800-4759-2330. Contact the Military Police in case of a medical emergency.

Learn German landlord and tenant laws

Attorneys from the Stuttgart Law Center will discuss German landlord and tenant law and some of the common legal problems that have been faced by Stuttgart military community members, during in-processing briefings scheduled for every Thursday in August at 10 a.m. at the Central Processing Facility, Building 2913, Panzer Kaserne.

For more information, contact the Central Processing Facility at 431-2599/07031-15-2599 or the Legal Assistance Office at 421-4152/0711-729-4152.

Register your bikes

Having your bicycle registered is important in the event it is lost or stolen.

To register a bicycle, visit the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Military Police Desk in Building 2307 on Patch Barracks. Cyclists will need their ID card, address and phone number, sponsor's rotation date, and bicycle make, model, color, size and serial number.

In the event the bicycle is lost and recovered, the MPs will be able to contact the owner.

For more information, call the Military Police Traffic Section at 430-5330/5001/civ. 0711-680-5330/5001.

Need fuel for rental car?

Petroleum authorizations for rental vehicles can be obtained either at the local Customs Office during normal duty hours or 24 hours a day at the Provost Marshal Office on Patch Barracks.

To obtain an authorization, bring ID card, rental contract and rental vehicle registration. Personnel on temporary duty orders must also present TDY orders.

Health clinic offers youth sports physicals

The U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart will offer sports physicals for school-age children Aug. 17. If you are not a Tricare Prime beneficiary, bring a copy of your insurance card with you to the visit.

To make an appointment, call the Europe Regional Medical Command Call Center at 371-2622/civ. 06221-17-2622.

Appointments needed at Wellness Center

The Army Wellness Center Stuttgart, located in Building 2337 on Patch Barracks, is currently operating with limited capabilities. To better serve customers, appointments are now necessary.

To make an appointment, call 430-4073/civ. 0711-680-4073.

Send community-wide announcements to [stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil](mailto:stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil).

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YOU DON'T HAVE TO FACE  
**PTSD**  
ALONE

Call 431-2530 to speak to an ASAP counselor

# What’s a single service member to do? Join BOSS!

By Megan Clancy  
Special to The Citizen

Service members looking to expand their horizons beyond the walls of the barracks may want to consider Better Opportunities for Single Service Members.

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart BOSS program is open to all services and ranks, enlisted or officers, whether active duty or reservists.

“There are approximately 600 service members who are eligible to participate in BOSS,” said Steve Dunlap, the BOSS advisor, of the Stuttgart military community. “Anyone who is a single service member or who is unaccompanied — married but without his or her family — is eligible for BOSS.”

While BOSS is an official Army program, the program in Stuttgart is a bit different from other bases because it also serves Airmen, Marines and Sailors.

BOSS offers a variety of trips, recreational services and community service activities for singles to participate in. Many of the events are subsidized, meaning little or no out-of-pocket expenses for participants.

Last month, BOSS held an evening social sponsored by the Sindelfingen Marriott Hotel, complete with cocktails, dinner and dancing, for a mere \$5 cover charge. “The food is good,” said Marine Cpl. Julius A. Griffin, 22, who serves as the BOSS representative for Marines stationed here.

“I feel that the Marines serve singles well, and I’m here to make sure that the single service member’s

life in Germany is well,” he said.

And that is essentially what the BOSS program does: strive to increase the overall quality of single service members’ lives.

“BOSS is important because it gives single Soldiers a voice, especially when it comes to barracks living,” Dunlap said. Barracks improvement initiatives, thanks to the BOSS program, have made big differences in the lives of single service members. “BOSS fixed a lot of things,” Dunlap said.

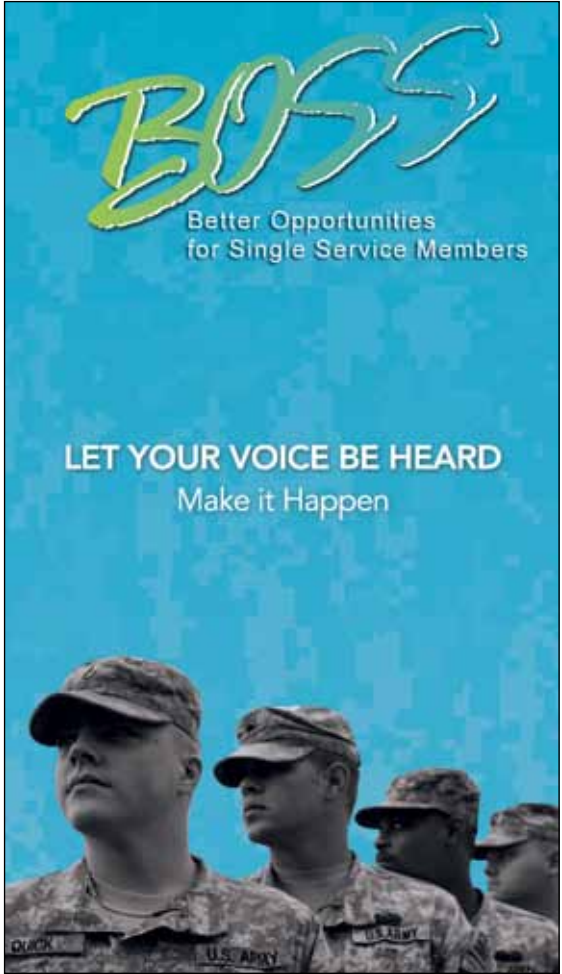
BOSS members also give back to the community through activities such as setting up flea markets and cooking for wounded warriors at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

This month, BOSS participants will help set up the Community Activity, Registration and Education Fair, and on Sept. 21, they will assist in running Outdoor Recreation’s Amazing Race event, Dunlap said.

BOSS meetings are held twice a month in the Warrior Zone in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks — on the second and last Tuesday every month at 3 p.m. All single service members are invited to attend.

Participants discuss upcoming events and community service projects, and address quality of life concerns during the meetings, Dunlap said. Those issues are forwarded to the garrison command sergeant major for review and resolution.

For more information, visit [www.stuttgartarmwr.com](http://www.stuttgartarmwr.com), or stop by the Warrior Zone, Building 2505, Patch Barracks.



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and click on the "ICE" tab.

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# VBS encourages kids to reach for the sky

By Megan Clancy  
Special to The Citizen

Usually Patch Elementary School is pretty quiet this time of year ... the desks are empty, the public address system silent, the bulletin boards blank.

Yet laughter echoed through the halls as 221 children and 110 volunteers were in constant motion during the garrison-sponsored Vacation Bible School for 5- to 11-year-olds, held July 30 to Aug. 3 at the school.

"The best part of VBS is seeing children happy, smiling, remembering different Bible stories and various Bible verses, and going home ... helping their parents learn about God," said James Sciegel, the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Religious Education Director.

This year's theme at the non-denominational VBS was "Sky — Everything is possible with God." Airplanes, clouds and balloons were everywhere in support of the theme.

Each three hour session started with an opening sing along session. Then the children, divided into 24 "flight crews" of varying ages, rotated through stations that included hands-on activities, videos, Bible stories and discussion, games and a snack, before the groups came back together for a closing song.

In addition, children were able to contribute funds to Portions for Orphans — a not-for-profit organization focused on improving the quality of care provided to orphans — by doing chores or projects and donating the money, Sciegel said.

Each day, the children learned "Bible points" to help them relate to God in their own lives. For example, on Wednesday, the phrase to remember was: "No matter what people do, trust God."

Samantha Stachitas, 8, took it a step



Susan Huseman

*Volunteers hold up a hula hoop as Wesley Holbeck, 9, prepares to launch a balloon filled with "God's love" through the hoop, which symbolizes worldly distractions, while Lilly Eveland, 6, and Colby Waters, 8, wait their turns during the RSO-sponsored Vacation Bible School July 31.*

further. "No matter how you feel and what people do, trust God!" she said, in response to what she had just learned.

One of the most popular stations was Chadder's Theater, where children watched videos about Chadder, a mischievous talking chipmunk, and his adventures.

Volunteers Linda Sanborn and

Jessica Cassidy then led the children through discussions to make sure they got the message of each video.

At another station, blue balloons were filled with "God's love" and launched through hula hoops.

"Last year was more focused on arts and crafts, but this year is more hands-on," said volunteer Christy Benitez,

whose two daughters begged to come back to VBS again this year.

"It's a good program for children. My kids get excited every morning, asking what is next?" she said.

Benitez said that she thinks the sky theme is great, and that it makes the kids think big. "With God, there are no limits," she added.

Chester Johnston, 7, also returned because of his experience last year. "I wanted to come back for the second time this year because it is fun. I like the games ... I like Orville the pig because I'm a fan of pigs."

His brother, Henry, 12, volunteered, and found himself playing "Flash Skyrunner," a pilot in training, in the closing skit.

"I love to act, and it is the best feeling in the world," Henry said.

His material, however, was not the easiest to work with. "It's hard to memorize Bible quotes ...," he said.

For volunteer and mom Marie-Christine Kemp, VBS has been a way to introduce her children to a new community.

"We have moved 13 times in 20 years. Being involved in the chapel helps my children to stay busy making new friends," she said.

The USAG Stuttgart Religious Support Office was able to provide VBS thanks in part to funding from the Department of Defense, but the majority of funds were generated through offerings collected during Protestant and Catholic services, according to Religious Education Director Sciegel.

In a change from previous years, VBS was limited to Patch Barracks. The decision to forego VBS at Robinson Barracks was a difficult one, and the result of RSO staff downsizing, funding and logistical difficulties, Sciegel said.

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## Alternative school supplies

When shopping for school supplies, consider some healthy, environmentally-friendly alternatives.

Ink pens, markers, correction fluids and gel pens can often contain solvents and other harmful ingredients. It's better to select water-based pens and pens with refill systems.

Non-enameled graphite and colored pencils made of wood are also a good choice. White-board pens and permanent markers often contain harmful chemicals and should be avoided.

Glues should be solvent-free and water-based; spray adhesives that contain gases and solvents shouldn't be used.

Wooden rulers, cotton lunch bags, leather pencil cases and erasers made of natural caoutchouc are great alternatives.

Choose notebooks and folders made of recycled paper and non-chlorine bleach. Whenever possible avoid plastics; items made from recycled paper, wood, or even recycled plastic, are better alternatives.



USAG Stuttgart  
Directorate of Public Works  
Environmental Division





For emergency care, use host nation facilities

Time is an important factor when emergency care is required.

Beneficiaries of U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart are reminded that the facility is not staffed or equipped as an emergency clinic and it does not provide an ambulance service.

A medical emergency is one in which life, limb or eyesight may be in immediate danger and time may be a critical factor.

To avoid a delay in treatment, patients requiring emergency care should go to the nearest host nation facility or call for an ambulance.

You can call the German ambulance service direct (civ. 112), but to guarantee an English speaker, call the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Military Police. On post, dial 114 or 116; off post, call civ. 0711-680-114/116.

The MPs will contact the German ambulance service and a Host Nation Patient Liaison. If your emergency is on an installation, the MPs will also meet the ambulance at the gate and escort it onto the installation.

German first responders will triage and transport the patient to the nearest emergency room that can treat the injury or condition.

Health clinic gets new commander

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center  
Public Affairs Office

Col. Joanna J. Reagan assumed command of U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart during a ceremony held July 10 on Patch Barracks that also honored the service of the outgoing commander, Col. Lawrence B. Connell.

Connell, who served as clinic commander since 2010, will now take an assignment as the chief of staff for the Pacific Region Medical Command in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The new clinic commander is a graduate of Montana State University, and also holds degrees from Chapman University, Texas Women’s University and the Army War College.

Reagan’s most recent assignment was as the deputy commander for the Administration/Troop Commander at General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Her past assignments also include stints at Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii; Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg, N.C.; and Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C.

Connell said he was proud of a number of accomplishments during his tenure, including “opening the Kelley Clinic Annex on Kelley Barracks, as well as increased patient satisfaction and customer support to the Stuttgart military community.”

As of July 15, the Stuttgart clinic falls under the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, which in turn is part of the Europe Regional Medical Command. The clinic has a staff of approximately 125 and serves



Richard Herman  
*Outgoing Commander Col. Lawrence Connell (from left); Col. Telita Crosland, the Heidelberg Medical Department Activity commander; and Col. Joanna J. Reagan, the incoming commander, salute during the U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart change of command ceremony held July 10 on Patch Barracks.*

more than 10,000 beneficiaries in the Stuttgart military community.

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Tim Hipps

# Scoring Olympic gold

*In double record-setting fashion, Sgt. Vincent Hancock became the first shotgun shooter to win consecutive Olympic gold medals in men's skeet July 31 at the Royal Artillery Barracks during the 2012 London Olympics. Hancock, 23, a Soldier in the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit from Eatonton, Ga., eclipsed his own records set at the 2008 Beijing Games for both qualification and total scores, where he first struck gold.*

## MCEC training

The Military Child Education Coalition will hold a professional development training for school counselors, educators and other personnel who work with students, on Oct. 1-4 at the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks. The training is free, but enrollment is limited.

A Transition Counselor I session will be held Oct 1-2, followed by part II on Oct. 3-4.

For more course information about these sessions, go to [www.militarychild.org/professionals/programs](http://www.militarychild.org/professionals/programs) or contact the Europe MCEC

Project Manager at 0176-2486-5620 or email [brenda.coffield@militarychild.org](mailto:brenda.coffield@militarychild.org).

### Put a stop to money troubles with FPU

Learn to focus on savings and investments, and bring peace into your life and relationships with Financial Peace University.

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Religious Support Office will sponsor a class for adults that will begin Sept. 11. The class will be held Tuesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and run for 13 weeks.

A 13-week Foundations in Per-

sonal Finance class for teens will also be offered on Tuesday from 6-8 p.m., beginning Sept. 11.

Both classes will meet in the Religious Education Center, Building 2332, Patch Barracks.

For more information, email [FPUStuttgart@yahoo.com](mailto:FPUStuttgart@yahoo.com) or visit FPU Stuttgart on Facebook.

### Due to PCS soon?

If you are relocating within the next three or four months, it's time to begin preparing for the move.

Permanent change of station/pre-separation briefings will be held Sept. 19, Oct. 17 and Nov.

14 at 1 p.m. in Building 2913 on Panzer Kaserne.

Representatives from various agencies will brief, to include transportation, customs, medical and dental clinics, Tricare, vehicle registration, housing and Army Community Service. Army personnel will also receive a briefing on finance issues.

All separating Army personnel must attend this briefing to receive pre-separation information.

Advance registration is required. For more information and to sign-up, call 431-2599/civ. 07031-15-2599.

### Get to know your post office, CMR hours

**Patch Barracks, Building 2325**

- Consolidated Mail Room — Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3:30-6 p.m.
- Army Post Office — Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Kelley Barracks, Building 3312**

- Consolidated Mail Room — Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3:30-6 p.m.
- Army Post Office — Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Robinson Barracks**

- Consolidated Mail Room (Building 196) — Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 2:30-6 p.m.
- Army Post Office (Building 169) — Wednesday, 1-4 p.m.

**Panzer Kaserne**

- Consolidated Mail Room (Building 2953) — Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3:30-6 p.m.
- Army Post Office (Building 2915) — Monday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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*Send community-wide announcements to [stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil](mailto:stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil)*

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# Terrorism can hit close to home, even in Stuttgart community

By Shay Edwards

USAG Stuttgart Antiterrorism Office

Some people may think that a terrorist attack can't occur in Stuttgart, but terrorism remains a threat everywhere, even here.

In 2007, the U.S. intelligence interception of suspicious communications between Pakistan and Stuttgart led to the arrest of three suspected Muslim militants accused of plotting massive car bomb attacks against Americans.

According to a Sept. 7, 2007, Los Angeles Times news story, "The suspects wanted to kill as many Americans as possible in the process, officials said.

"Probable targets of their alleged plan to build three car bombs were crowded bars, nightclubs, restaurants and airports. They chose Germany because it was their home turf and because of the large population of Americans around military bases."

Then in 2009, the Stuttgart state court convicted three men for being members of a Turkish leftist group and supporting terrorist activities. All three were leaders in the outlawed Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front, according to Deutsche Welle, a German broadcasting conglomerate.

And last year in March, Arid Uka shot four U.S. Airmen outside the Frankfurt Airport, killing two of them.

Uka became radicalized on his own by reading and watching jihadist propaganda on the Internet.

During his trial, "He testified he wanted to stop U.S. service personnel from going to Afghanistan after viewing a video on Facebook that purported to show American Soldiers raping a teenage Muslim girl. It turned out to be a scene from the 2007 Brian De Palma anti-war film "Redacted," taken out of context," according to an Associated Press report.

While the attack occurred in Frankfurt, it could have easily been perpetrated by a worker at the Stuttgart Airport.

One can conclude that terrorist groups exist



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***Service members, civilians and families are encouraged to recognize and report suspicious activity to law enforcement agents.***

in Stuttgart, and that lone wolf actors are a threat anywhere.

This information is not presented to scare people, but rather to open their eyes to the possibility of a terrorist attack occurring in their own community.

To prevent this, ensure you are aware of what constitutes suspicious activity and how to report it.

## ***Know the indicators of possible terrorist activities***

Some common indicators of suspicious activity are people asking questions about security forces on post or taking pictures of U.S. personnel or installations, and abandoned packages or backpacks left in heavily populated areas or near bus stops and train stations.

Unusual indicators of suspicious activity include strong odors coming from a building, vehicle or sewer grate (indicating explosives), fire extinguishers that have been moved or are out of place (possible impro-

vised explosive devices), or a vehicle with multiple propane tanks and large containers or gas cans, in a parking lot. It could be a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device.

Anything that seems odd or out of place should be reported to the Military Police immediately.

## ***Reporting suspicious activity***

Reporting suspicious activity is critical because it helps to focus both U.S. and German intelligence assets.

People often rationalize that what they are witnessing is benign, and tell themselves that they are overreacting.

But every report of suspicious activity is important and may save lives.

While a single person acting suspiciously or asking suspicious questions may seem unimportant, consider the possibility that your report may be the second or third of a suspicious person or odd activity in the area.

If a report is made fast enough so that MPs or German Polizei can respond to the incident and interview the suspicious person — even if after the fact — then a clear message is sent to the person that they are being observed.

If they are planning terrorist criminal activity, such a confrontation could discourage them from pursuing an attack in the area.

Do your part to secure the community: know, recognize, and report suspicious activity.

To report anything suspicious, contact the local MPs at 430-5262 as soon as possible.

A report can also be made online at the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart homepage at [www.stuttgart.army.mil](http://www.stuttgart.army.mil), by clicking on the iWatch or iSalute icon and submitting the report electronically.

For more information on identifying suspicious activity, online training is available at <https://atlevel1.dtic.mil/at>.

AUGUST IS ANTITERRORISM AWARENESS MONTH



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to report suspicious activity in your community, go to

[www.eur.army.mil/eureport](http://www.eur.army.mil/eureport)

or use the link at right found on all U.S. Army garrison and U.S. Army Europe unit home pages in the European theater






# At your leisure

## Festivals

The music, cabaret, theater and culture center Merlin will host the **Sommersmusikfestival Klinke 23**, or summer music festival, from Aug. 10 to Sept. 8.

Regional, as well as newcomer bands and artists, will perform Wednesday through Saturday at 9 p.m. Visitors will be entertained with poetry and '60s pop, rock and indie tunes.

Eric Gauthier is one of Stuttgart's most popular musicians and will perform with his band Sept. 8 at 9 p.m.

Besides music, patrons can also enjoy food and drinks at Café Merlin, or at Merlin's beer garden area.

The event is free, however, donations for the bands are welcome.

Merlin is located at Augustenstrasse 72, 70178 Stuttgart.

For more information, visit [www.merlinstuttgart.de](http://www.merlinstuttgart.de).



Christian Schenkel

**Fireworks illuminate the skies over Ostfildern during last year's "Flammende Sterne" or Flaming Stars firework festival. This year's event will run from Aug. 17-19 at the Scharnhauser Park.**

The **Flammende Sterne** firework festival will run Aug. 17-19 at the Scharnhauser Park leisure area in Ostfildern.

The festival is open Friday and Saturday from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m., and Sunday from 4 p.m. until midnight.

Pyrotechnicians from England, Spain and Germany will participate in the firework competition. Firework displays that are set to music will run from 10:30-11 p.m. nightly.

The event celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, and offers "Feurige Geburtstagsshow," or "fiery birthday shows," every night

from 10-10:30 p.m.

Beside fireworks, the festival offers a variety market, performances by fire-breathers and acrobats, and "Ballonglühen," during which illuminated hot air balloons will rise into the evening sky. The event also offers food and live bands.

Tickets cost €11 when purchased in advance and €14 at the event.

Family tickets (two adults and children 11 years old and younger) cost €30.

To purchase tickets, call civ. 0800-2711-711, or visit [www.cs-kartenservice.de](http://www.cs-kartenservice.de).

For more information, visit [www.flammende-sterne.de](http://www.flammende-sterne.de).

Ludwigsburg will host the **Ludwigsburger Weinlaube** wine fest until Aug. 18. The fest opens daily at 5 p.m. and is located at the Rathausshof in the downtown area.

The event features fine foods from local restaurants and more than 130 regional and international wines.

Live bands will also entertain visitors with rock, pop and country music throughout the event.

For more information, visit [www.ludwigsburger-weinlaube.de](http://www.ludwigsburger-weinlaube.de).

## Theater

The Friedrichsbau Varieté, or Variety Theater, in downtown Stuttgart features a **Fantastique Das Magische Kabinett der Mme. Roxanne** magical cabaret show until Oct. 20.

Performances are offered Wednesday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 6 p.m. Oct. 6, 13 and 20, the show will run at 6 and at 10 p.m.

The "Variété for Tea" program will also feature parts of the **Fantastique** show with coffee, tea and cake Sept. 20 and Oct. 18 at 3:30 p.m.

According to a Variété press release, magicians will take visitors on a mystical journey between illusion and fantasy.

The show will also feature Jan Becker, one of Germany's most popular mentalists.

Tickets cost between €22 and €52 and can be purchased by calling civ. 0711-225-7070.

The show is recommended for mature audiences.

The Friedrichsbau Variété is located at Friedrichstrasse 24, 70174 Stuttgart.

For more information, visit [www.friedrichsbau.de](http://www.friedrichsbau.de).



Jan Becker

**Jan Becker is one of Germany's most popular mentalists and will be part of the "Fantastique Das Magische Kabinett der Mme. Roxanne" magical cabaret cast. The show will run until Oct. 20 at the Friedrichsbau Variété in Stuttgart.**

## This weekend

The **Steillagenfest**, a local wine fest, will run Aug. 11-12 at Stuttgart's city district Mühlhausen.

The fest will be open on Saturday from 2-11 p.m. and on Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Local vintners will offer regional wines and food, homemade cakes and ice cream.

Visitors can also take a ride up on the wine hills with the "Monorackbahn," or monorack train, to enjoy a glass of wine at the "Wengerthäusle," or vintner's hut.

Wine cocktails, sparkling wines and live music will also be offered.

The event spans along the Neckar River and starts at Arnoldstrasse 96, 70378 Stuttgart-Mühlhausen.

Patrons can also take the U-Bahn U14 to the Auwiesen stop.

The **Konstanzer Seenachtfest**, or Lake Constance Festival, will run Aug. 11 from 1 p.m. to 2 a.m. all along Konstanz' boardwalk area.

The fest will span from Seestrasse and Stadtgarten to Hafenstrasse and "Klein Venedig," or little Venice.

The fest will feature a firework display that is set to music at 10:15 p.m. This year's theme will be "Stars of Africa."

In addition to the fireworks, visitors can indulge in food, enjoy live music, jugglers, fire-breathers and a arts and crafts market. A children's program will be offered, as well.

During the open air party with

the SWR Band, patrons can dance the summer night away.

Tickets cost €12 when purchased in advance or €16 at the event. Entrance is free for children 11 years old or younger.

For more information, visit [www.seenachtfest.de](http://www.seenachtfest.de).



Christian Schenkel

**One of Europe's largest firework displays, set to music, illuminates the Lake Constance during last year's "Konstanzer Seenachtfest." This year, the event will be held Aug. 11 from 1 p.m. to 2 a.m.**

## Family

The Stuttgart Airport will host the **Grosses Kinderfest**, or children's festival, Aug. 12 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The event spans the P3, P4 and P5 parking lots to the airport's observation deck and Terminal 1 (west).

The family event offers sports programs, a children's disco, entertainment, arts and crafts, a soccer freestyle show, clowns, face painting, bouncing castles, and hands-on activities with the airport's fire department.

The airport's police department will also host police working dog demonstrations.

Visitors can tour the airport's flightline area exclusively during the event.

Patrons can also enter the chance to win a one-week family vacation at the Robinson Club in Kreta, Greece.

All activities are free.

For more information, visit [www.flughafen-stuttgart.de](http://www.flughafen-stuttgart.de).



## What's happening in FMWR

### Texas barbecue Aug. 17

An all-you-can-eat barbecue will be served Aug. 17 from 4:30-8 p.m. at the Kelley Club. The menu includes ribs, chicken, baked beans, potatoes, macaroni and cheese, and salad.

For more information, call 421-4660/civ. 0711-729-4660.

### Youth sports clinics

Child Youth and School Services will offer several youth sports clinics this month.

• **Soccer I** for ages 5-9: Aug. 14-16, 5:30-7 p.m., Bowman Field, Patch Barracks, \$35;

• **Bowling** for ages 7-18: Aug. 15-17, 3-4:45 p.m., Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center, Panzer Kaserne, \$20;

• **Soccer II** for ages 10 and over: Aug. 18-19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Husky Field, Patch Barracks, \$25.

To register, call 430-7480/civ. 0711-680-7480.

### Sunday bingo

Every Sunday the Patch Community Club offers bingo and a chance to win over \$3,000 in prizes. Doors open at 1 p.m., and

play starts at 3 p.m.

For more information, call 421-5433/civ. 0711-680-5433.

### Play paintball

Adults 18 and over, and teens 16-17 (accompanied by a parent) are invited to play paintball on Aug. 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Shuttle transportation to the field will be available.

For costs and reservations, call Outdoor Recreation at 431-2774/civ. 07031-15-2774.

### Learn calm parenting

The "ScreamFree" parenting series will teach parents how to stay calm, connected and in control. Classes will be offered from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Aug. 14, 21 and 28 at Army Community Service, Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne.

For more information and to register, call 431-3362/civ. 07031-15-3362

For more activities, or to join the Family and MWR email list, visit [www.stuttgartmwr.com](http://www.stuttgartmwr.com) or [facebook.com/familyandmwr](https://facebook.com/familyandmwr).



## Coming to Patch Theater

**Aug. 10** — Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (PG) 5 p.m., Total Recall (PG-13) 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.

**Aug. 11** — Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (PG) 4 p.m., Total Recall (PG-13) 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.

**Aug. 12** — Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (PG) 2 p.m., The Avengers (PG-13) 4 p.m., Total Recall (PG-13) 7 p.m.

**Aug. 13** — Total Recall (PG-13) 6 p.m.

**Aug. 14** — Planet 51 (PG) 3 p.m., Brave (PG) 6 p.m.

**Aug. 15** — The Avengers (PG-13) 6 p.m.

**Aug. 16** — The Amazing Spider-man (PG-13) 6 p.m.

**Aug. 17** — The Bourne Legacy (PG-13) 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

**Aug. 18** — Brave (PG) 2 p.m.; The Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 4 p.m.; The Campaign (R) 7 p.m.; The Bourne Legacy (PG-13) 10 p.m.

**Aug. 19** — The Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 1 p.m.; Hope Springs (PG-13) 4 p.m.; The Bourne Legacy



Universal Studios

*"The Bourne Legacy" introduces film goes to a new hero, Aaron Cross, played by Jeremy Renner.*

(PG-13) 7 p.m.

**Aug. 20** — Bourne Legacy (PG-13) 6 p.m.

**Aug. 21** — The Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 6 p.m.

**Aug. 22** — Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG) 6 p.m.

**Aug. 23** — The Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 6 p.m.

For more movie listings, visit [www.shopmyexchange.com](http://www.shopmyexchange.com). The Patch Theater phone number is civ. 0711-120-8222.

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