



THE Outlook

April 5, 2005

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Mother and Infant Pavilion dedicated



Gen. B.B. Bell, U.S. Army Europe commander (left), and Brig. Gen. Carla G. Hawley-Bowland, Europe Regional Medical Command command surgeon (right), help Liliana Benincaso, center, cut the ribbon during the dedication of the Dr. Frank V. Benincaso Mother and Infant Pavilion on Caserma Ederle April 1.

Benincaso is surrounded by her six children: Elisa, Silvia, Barbara, Stephanie, Phillip and Anthony. The children all live in the United States and flew over for the dedication. The pavilion is named after Dr. Benincaso who was one of the most beloved pediatricians with over 40-year experience working with children. He worked at the Vicenza Health Clinic for more than 13 years and was characterized by one parent as "loving, consoling, caring and compassionate." Dr. Benincaso passed away in 2003.

Both Gen. Bell and Brig. Gen. Hawley-Bowland shared their appreciation for the teamwork of the medical, financial personnel and the construction team which made this project possible. See more about the dedication on page 5. (Photo by Laura Kreider, Outlook staff)

Red Devils patrol area, attitudes

Story and photos
By Sgt. Adrian Schulte
CJTF-76 Public Affairs

As the sun rose on a brisk Afghan morning, a platoon of paratroopers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Airborne) loaded their gear and clambered aboard Humvees. During the patrol, some infantrymen rode inside the trucks while others crowded into the backs of open-bed Humvees, exposed to the elements. The weather near Orgun-E is still cool, so troops bundled up during the long ride. Before the patrol was over, the troops were exposed to sun, wind, rain, snow and hail.

Their role is clear: patrol the countryside for security and maintain relationships with local leaders. They oversee the Paktika province, a strategically important area in the southeastern part of the country that shares a border with Pakistan.

During a recent patrol, troops from Company A, 1st Platoon, along with Soldiers from the battalion's mortar and maintenance sections, headed from their headquarters at Forward Operating Base Orgun-E north to the villages of Zarok and Naka.

They're looking to make sure the roads are clear and free of enemy activity and to check with the local officials to see where help is needed.

"Once we get up there, we try to work very closely with the government," said Staff Sgt. Timothy Jensen, a squad leader with Company A. "We try to meet with the mayors and police departments to access their abilities. We find out any equipment they might need to help them better do their job."

Their patrol is also about getting the people of the villages used to seeing American Soldiers and to teach them that they are there to help them, Jensen said.

As the Soldiers left their camp, kids ran along the side of the trucks waving or giving a thumbs up. Many asked for chocolate or pens, two items popular with the local children. Afghan men also gave a friendly

wave or smile. Near the base, the attitude toward Americans is positive for the most part, but as the paratroopers ventured farther from their stronghold, feelings are mixed.

"For the most part in the Orgune valley that we are in, it seems that everyone likes us and everyone appreciates that we are here," Jensen said. "The people are very receptive and very friendly. You don't get the same warm feeling when you go up to the Zarok and Naka region. Zarok is a little friendlier to us but we have been told to expect that Naka is not."

Some residents in Naka refused humanitarian assistance recently, Jensen said.

"So right now our primary focus is to get up there and show a large presence and show that we are their friends and want to work with them," he said. "Just in my three missions up there, they are getting a lot more receptive to coalition forces and getting accustomed to why we are there. We are there to help."

The primary message they are trying to push is that it is not the U.S. helping them – it is the U.S. in cooperation with the Afghan national government, Jensen said.

These patrols are key to changing the attitudes in these areas, said 1st Lt. Justin Freeland, 1st Platoon Leader, A Co. 1-508th Inf (Abn). The troops want to visit these villages as much as possible to further along the process. If the weather cooperates, Red Devil troops will attempt to visit the villages each week.

The path to the villages was a difficult one, even for the rugged American vehicles. There are roads in Paktika, but due to rough weather recently, many are tracks of mud. Some have been washed out, while others are too narrow for the broad Humvees to pass. So, many times the Humvees head off the beaten path. They follow flat areas and river beds – some dry, some not so dry. The ride was bumpy and slow going for the troops. But the Humvees plow through and get the troops to their destination.

Along the way, the convoy stopped to allow the company to inspect suspicious activity or to await close air support from helicopter gunships or Air Force A-10s.

On one such stop, troops spotted a couple of men off in the distance with what was thought to have been a rifle. A squad of riflemen dismounted their vehicles, waded through a river and climbed up a hill to investigate. It turned out to just be a couple of goat herders.

Treks like this are "high adventure" for the paratroopers of the 508th – literally. At more than 7,500 feet in some areas, climbing up a hill in full battle gear will exhaust even the fittest infantryman. The troops are used the lower Italian altitude and are

Road Closures

The Caserma Ederle community is advised of the following road closures:

From now through April 27: 5th Street (runs behind the Dining Facility) will be closed to all traffic from Olson Avenue up to and including Soldiers' Theatre parking lot.

Starting Wednesday through April 25 - The Davis Hall loop road will be closed. No traffic will be allowed in the parking areas surrounding the building.

April 11-25 - Traffic flow will be restricted on 6th Street and by the AAFES garage. No parking will be allowed on the sides of the street. There will be no overnight parking allowed in the AAFES garage parking lot.



Soldiers from 1st Platoon, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Airborne), patrol the small town of Naka during a mission there March 24.

See Patrol on page 4

How are we doing?

March force protection, safety

Office of the Provost Marshal
22nd Area Support Group

Vehicle break-ins continue to be a concern in our community. Although the reported number of break-ins has declined over the past month, the Provost Marshal continues to stress the importance of vehicle security.

Remember, secure your vehicle and activate alarm systems when your vehicle is unattended.

Never leave valuables of any type in your vehicle.

Government equipment such as camera, laptops, or phones should never be left in any vehicle.

It only takes a thief moments to gain entry and remove valuables that are left in vehicles.

Safeguard your property at all times.

The Provost Marshal reminds the community that passing a school bus that is stopped for loading or unloading of passengers on military installations is a violation of AE Regulation 190-1.

Four points will be accessed against your USASETAF POV driver's license for this violation.

DA Form 1408s issued for March:

Moving Violations = 75
Parking=188
Safety Violations = 18
Reckless driving (1)
Speeding (11)
Improper passing (1)
Improper display of insurance (2)
No driver's license in possession (2)
Expired insurance (2)
No registration in possession (1)
Seat belt violations (10)
Parking (172)
Impeding the flow of traffic (87)
Parked against the flow traffic (4)
Failed to yield for pedestrian (1)
Failure to stop at a posted stop sign (16)

March Statistics

Traffic Accidents = 40
(injuries involved= 3)
Drunk Driving = 5
(involving accidents= 3)
Drunk & Disorderly Conduct = 1
Assaults = 6
Domestic Disturbances = 1
Lost ID Cards = 42
(Repeat Offenders= 2)



Sgt. Major of the Army Kenneth Preston shakes hands with Spc. Devika Rouse, 509th Signal Battalion, in the South of the Alps Dining Facility. Preston paid a brief visit to Caserma Ederle March 28, having lunch with a dozen Soldiers and performing physical fitness with them in the morning.

SMA visits Caserma Ederle

Story and photo
By Diana Bahr
22nd ASG Public Affairs

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston made a brief stop March 28 at Caserma Ederle during a whirlwind tour of Army posts in Europe. While on Caserma Ederle, Preston surprised some Soldiers by showing up for morning PT.

After a breakfast meeting with post sergeant majors, Sgt. Maj. Preston, accompanied by 22nd Area Support Group Command Sgt. Maj. Samuel Wilson, and Rear Detachment Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Weik, visited the new Family Readiness Center where he received a briefing about the support systems for family members and Soldiers.

Because so many Caserma Ederle service members live in government-leased or private rental, Preston was concerned about what services are offered to keep these

military families in touch with activities on post.

"These family readiness centers are very important to the readiness of our organizations," said Sgt. Maj. Preston. "During a deployment—and I've been on a lot of deployments—it's important to keep the families informed."

Keeping the connectivity back here in the rear areas is important because the flow of information coming in is what keeps the family members understanding what's taking place down there, said Sgt. Maj. Preston.

It dispels the rumors and it's really two-way communication—it lets the Soldier out in the battlefield know that his family is being taken care of, that way he can really focus on the mission at hand, according to Sgt. Maj. Preston.

After the briefing, Sgt. Maj. Preston took a tour of the FRC and then went to the South of the Alps Dining Facility where he dined with some Soldiers.

Spouse deployed? Need answers or assistance?

The staff and volunteers at the Family Assistance Center are available 24 hours a day. What is the FAC? It's assistance for friends and family of our deployed Soldiers. Phone lines are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and completely toll free.

From Italy and Germany: 00-800-1737-3823

From the U.S.: 011-800-1737-3823

From DSN: 634-7969

Email questions or concerns to: family@setaf.army.mil

The FAC is located in the **Davis Family Readiness Center** on Caserma Ederle.

Community

Action Council

This forum is to discuss issues that affect the community.

If you have an issue that you would like to submit, visit the 22nd Area Support Group Web site at www.22asg.vicenza.army.mil and click on the Community Action Council link.

This link provides you the opportunity to review issues that have been previously submitted and responded to by post agencies. There is also a form available for you to submit any new issue you would like addressed.

If you have any questions, call 634-5222 or 0444-71-5222 from off post.

The command encourages you to identify yourself when submitting a CAC issue in order to be able to answer your concern directly.

Childcare is offered during the CAC at \$2.50 per hour, per child for children ages 6 weeks through kindergarten from 8:45-11:15 a.m. Preregistration is required.

Children will be cared for in the Child Development Center, Building 395. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services Central Registration. Call 634-7219 or stop by their new location in Davis Hall.

The next CAC is April 27 at 9 a.m. in the Ederle Theater.

Issue: I would like to know what the rules on certification validity of MWR facilities are for overseas participants. I took the framing class and the wood shop safety class in Germany last year.

I was given a card and an assurance that I could use all overseas facilities without having to pay and retake the classes.

When I got here, I had to pay and retake the class. Is there anything that can be done to remedy this situation?

I could see having a quick refresher (10

to 15 minutes) instead of paying the \$25 and spending a four-hour block of instruction with beginners at a very slow pace.

Response from Directorate of MWR: First and foremost, we must ensure the safety of all our patrons through education and information regarding equipment, policies, and procedures. We do require all Art Center patrons who wish to do framing and use the wood shop to take the framing class and the wood safety class, regardless of the patron's skill level.

Equipment and facility policies and procedures are different at each installation.

We charge a minimal \$5 fee to take the wood safety class. The wood safety class is a two-hour class. Patrons are informed of all safety rules and regulations that must be followed during the orientation class.

The framing class is \$25 and is offered as a four-hour class. However, if a customer presents their qualification card from another installation, our policy states that customers need only participate in the first hour of the class. This is where the instructor reviews all safety rules, regulations, and procedures. The instructor also reviews all equipment in the frame studio.

Issue: When I recently went to pick up a piece of registered mail, it took me three tries to get it because the only person who could open the safe was not there.

There was a Soldier in line behind me the second time who was having the same problem.

In all, I stood in line for over an hour before I was able to get my mail.

While I understand the need for security and control over registered mail, why is it not possible to have two people authorized to open the safe?

Response from the 22nd ASG S-1: Unfortunately, this happened because the

registered item was a large package that could not fit in the registered mail safe. It was locked up in the office of the CMR Supervisor for safekeeping in accordance with DOD Postal Manual 4525.6-M, dated 15 August 2002.

On the day the customer came to claim the package, the office was locked and the CMR Supervisor was out of the area.

Under normal circumstances, the CMR Mail Clerk that has the responsibility of registered mail has access to that mail and can deliver it without any problems. This applies to letter-size mail and small packages that will fit into the registered mail safe.

Because of this incident, the CMR Supervisor has made a duplicate key of his office and provided it to his assistant, and another key is now stored in the S-1 office.

We apologize for any inconvenience we may have put our CMR customer through.

Issue: I would like to know if there are going to be replacements for the vacated jobs at the Vicenza Civilian Personnel Advisory Center?

The employees there are apparently overworked, short staffed and short tempered. In the past two weeks I have experienced more rude people than in my entire time associated with the Army.

This does not give a warm reception to new employees, in fact, it makes you want to rethink your decision.

Response from the Vicenza CPAC: First, and foremost, the staff and I personally apologize to the customer who received poor customer service.

The staff takes great pride in being courteous and professional to all customers at all times.

Should an occasion arise where a customer is treated discourteously, the encounter should immediately be referred to

the CPAC Director (634-7537) in order to address and resolve the situation.

Because of budget and manpower constraints, the CPAC at present is unable to fill vacancies. Our higher headquarters is aware of our situation and is working to get this shortage resolved.

To better assist in managing the workload, we have put in place an appointment system, are seeking volunteers, and have realigned some of the staff and work at both at the CPAC and the CPOC.

Customers can assist us by making appointments before they visit, and ensure that they bring with them pertinent documents relative to the assistance they are seeking.

The CPAC thanks the community for their continued understanding and support.

Issue: Is it possible for the Ederle Theater to show movies at midday for at-home mothers and children.

If this is possible, it would be a great way, even if it's just once a week, for spouses with children get out of the house. I assumed that normal ticket fees would apply.

Response from AAFES: We are currently coordinating with the command for a midday time frame where we would be able to provide one movie a month to support our community at-home mothers and children.

We have currently scheduled movies for April 11, 12, 14 and 15, to help parents entertain children during Spring Break.

We have also scheduled Family Night at the Ederle Theater for Wednesday, April 20 and April 27, where G and PG-rated movies are shown at 5 p.m.

Family Night movies is shown on a trial basis and the community response to Family Night will determine whether we can afford to continue this initiative.

Identity thieves are targeting military members

By Mark Christensen
Chief of Client Services
Staff Judge Advocate Office

The crime of identity theft is growing and some responsible target United States Soldiers.

Why target the military? Good credit and corresponding high credit limits are hallmarks of military members, especially career officers and NCOs.

This fact has made Soldiers high priority targets for identity thieves. Some 200 Army officers were victims of identity theft, whereby almost 1,300 fraudulent accounts were opened in the names of those officers.

It was reported that potential losses could have reached an estimated \$1.4 million if the accounts had been drained to their limit.

The U.S. Public Interest

Research Group has reported that identity theft claims about 40,000 new victims each year.

The "Identity Theft Act of 1998" makes the crime a federal offense, and in most cases, victims are not normally financially liable.

The Fair Credit Billing Act generally limits a consumer's liability for unauthorized credit card charges to \$50.

However, repairing the damage of identity fraud usually costs victims plenty in the form of legal bills, lost time associated with repairing credit records, and personal embarrassment.

There are several ways to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft.

◆ First and most important, protect your Social Security number and other identification numbers such as your Personal Identification Number (PIN) which allows access to ATM cards. Don't

carry these numbers, or your passport, in your wallet or purse.

◆ Never give out personal information over the telephone, through the mail, or over the internet, unless you have initiated the contact or know the person with whom you are dealing.

◆ Destroy all discarded documents that contain personal information, such as billing statements, credit applications, expired charge cards, and card offers sent through the mail.

◆ Another way is to have your name removed from mailing lists for credit card offers.

Do this by calling the toll-free number used by the three major credit bureaus: (888)-5OPTOUT [(888) 567-8688].

◆ You can also stop your personal information associated with credit reports from being sold

to merchants by calling the OPTOUT number listed above.

◆ Order copies of your credit report each year and check them for errors.

A recent amendment to the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act now requires each of the nationwide consumer reporting companies to provide you with a free copy of your credit report, at your request, once every 12 months. For more information about receiving your free credit report, visit the Web site: www.annualcreditreport.com.

If you discover that you have become a victim of identity theft, take immediate action. Report the crime to military or civilian police, as appropriate, and request a copy of the police report.

Alert all appropriate creditors and financial institutions through which the accounts were

fraudulently accessed or opened, and close these accounts.

Also alert the fraud departments of each of the three major credit reporting agencies, and have a "fraud alert" placed on your file so that new credit will not be granted without your approval.

Call the Federal Trade Commission's toll-free Identity Theft Hotline at (877) IDTHEFT [(877) 438-4338, or visit its website at www.consumer.gov/idtheft.

The publication "ID Theft: When Bad Things Happen To Your Good Name" is also available through the ID Theft Hotline or from the website.

Lastly, never agree to pay any portion of the fraudulent debt, and seek legal assistance to ensure you have taken advantage of all resources to available to help you resolve credit problems.

Teen buddies help youngsters deal with deployment

Story and photo
By Megan Gafford
Special to the Outlook

With yearlong deployments upon us, Anna Calabrese has a dream.



Caserna Ederle teenagers take part in Buddy Program activities during a training session.

The Buddy Program, sponsored by Catholic Teen Ministry and run by Calabrese, is designed for teens to help children in the Vicenza Elementary School and Child Development Center cope with their parent, or parents, being deployed.

Calabrese came up with the idea when she saw "a little first-grader who has a hard time every time his dad has to deploy. I wanted to come up with something that could help him and other children in the same situation."

In the Buddy Program, teens are paired up with a child between the ages 3-11, and spend at least one hour a week with him or her, playing games, talking, and simply being a supportive friend.

Calabrese said that the goals for the Buddy program are to have a teen buddy for every little buddy.

"There are 315 students in the middle and high school and 665 in the elementary school," she said. "I know not every child will participate, but it would be awesome to have at least 200 in the program and for the program to be an ongoing one, not just during a

deployment.

"I hope this is a relationship that will last a lifetime," said Calabrese. "I believe that every teen will have an impact on their little buddy's life and hopefully the little buddy will make an impact on the teen's life, too."

Jessica Bostick, one of the teens participating in the Buddy Program, said, "I think it's important for kids to have someone to talk to and get advice from when their parents are deployed; someone who is closer to their age and more on their level."

As of now, there are 30 teens and 25 little buddies, but with the latest deployment Calabrese believes that there will be more children joining the program, so there is a need for more teens.

"I think it's something more kids [in Vicenza Middle and High School] should get involved with," continued Bostick. "Because it gives them something to do and helps them get involved in their community in a positive way."

To become a teen buddy, one has to go through training sessions. The training include stress and anger management, first aid and CPR training, creative play, communication, listening, helping, how to talk to children about war, and praying.

Praying is not a mandatory



A teen volunteer and her buddy work on a T-shirt during the Buddy meeting at the Post Chapel Saturday. The teenager has several little brothers and enjoys working with children. "We both like to play soccer," she said, referring to her new buddy. "So we can play soccer and hang out with friends." (Photo by Diana Bahr, Outlook Editor)

activity; while the Buddy Program is sponsored by CTM, it is open to all teens and children of any religion.

A background check is required for all teens, however, because they will be working with little children.

For teens who need volunteer service hours, both the training and weekly time spent with the buddy count toward volunteer hours.

The first Buddy meeting was held Saturday at the Post Chapel, where the teens were matched with a little buddy. Together they made T-shirts and started working on journals and diaries for the children to send to their deployed parent.

"I thank all the teens who have joined the program thus far," said

Calabrese. "We cannot do it without them and I hope that more will want to join as time goes on. We will continue to offer training and we have great plans for the Buddy Program."

"We also have a wish list," she said. "We would like donations to be dropped off at the post chapel for the following items: Playdoh, finger paints, and sidewalk chalk, white T-shirts in children sizes small to extra large, dark blue T-shirts in adult sizes small to extra large, construction paper, crayons, washable markers, permanent markers, and canvas bags."

For more information on the Buddy Program, contact Calabrese at 320-843-0550.

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High adventure for 1-508th Red Devils

Patrol from page 1

still getting acclimated to the height.

"Getting the Soldiers up to a lot of these ridgelines and hilltops—we are running a little bit of a stumbling block," Jensen said. "Fortunately we have a great gym facility on post so we can do a lot of cardio workouts to help speed up the process. We have been told to plan for about a two-month acclimatization period to fully get used to it. We are trying to speed that up a bit."

Once at the first village, Naka, the troops set up security in a police compound while the leaders talked. One squad headed into the town to patrol. While there, they stopped in the local clinic where a medic checked with the Afghan staff to see what they have and what they need.

The troops then walked through the

village interacting with the locals. Curiosity abounds on both sides. Some kids showed off their sling shot skills while other villagers crowded around one Red Devil who showed them their image on his digital camera. Back at the compound, the Soldiers rested and got to know their Afghan police allies.

After the meeting, the troops mounted up, said goodbye and headed to their final destination of the day, Zarok. As the sun set, the Humvees rolled into another police compound and the troops set up their defensive positions for the night.

The leaders went to talk to the local mayor and police chief. The village leaders greeted Capt. Jack Kilbride, commander Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-508th Inf (Abn) and Freeland with hugs and smiles. The men sat on the floor of a small,



Spc. Jesse Davis, 1st Platoon, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Abn), shows some local kids their own pictures on his personal digital camera during a patrol of the small town of Naka March 24.

warm room to discuss business over tea and cakes. The sweet, hot tea was a welcome treat for the troops, cold from a long day on the road. The meeting seemed productive as Freeland and Kilbride discussed what they can do to make the mayor's and police chief's job easier.

"I want to get a system in place for the police so that they are trained, they have their checkpoints, they are getting paid and they are a professional organization that people can look to and use to provide the stability for the region," Freeland said.

After business was finished, a couple more of the troops were invited in for dinner. The mayor, Abdul Mobeen, a humorous man who smiled and laughed as he spoke to the Americans, getting to know some of the coalition troops—his allies for the next year.

Mobeen cleared out three small rooms for the Soldiers to sleep in. The lucky ones found space and crowded in for the night. But many slept on the

porch of the building or in their trucks. While still others were exposed to the elements. During the night it rained and snowed. By the morning, some who spent the night out in the open, woke up cold, wet and tired.

After sunrise the Red Devils headed out and Mobeen led the convoy to a few places he wants checkpoints established and to a site where a new school will be built.

The patrol then headed back to the U.S. base, slowly and cautiously over the same rough terrain. FOB Orgun-E was a welcome sight to the Soldiers. While the FOB is nothing spectacular to visitors, and although it may not have many of the same amenities as some of the bigger bases around Afghanistan, it's home to the Red Devils. It's a place for them to get a hot shower, a hot meal and a bed.

The troops rolled in, unpacked, refitted and awaited the next patrol, which for some, was the following day.

"Every patrol makes a difference," Jensen said. "If just our presence deters somebody from setting up a rocket to hit coalition forces we have made a difference. Just by the population up there being more receptive to us and talking more openly to us is showing that we are making a difference in an area that we were told did not like us."



Rush hour in Afghanistan: Soldiers from 1st Platoon, A Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Airborne), dismount their vehicles and lumber up an embankment while going around a jammed one-way road during a patrol March 24.

Bravo Company medics save Afghan man

Story and photo

By **Spc. Jon Arguello**

173d Abn Bde Public Affairs

The life of an Afghan civilian was saved by Task Force Fury medics from Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Airborne) at a forward operating base in the Paktika Province, March 21.

The man was treated after a quick decision was made by the company's first sergeant for the medics to help the wounded man.

Two Afghan men approached the gate of Forward Operating Base Sharan begging for help. After realizing the men were seeking medical assistance for a man who was not getting the necessary aid from the local hospital, 1st Sgt. Charles Werley, allowed the men to retrieve the critically wounded man and bring him inside the base.

"At first it was two guys," said Werley. "Then we understood that they were trying to get help for a third man. I told them to bring the man to the base but I wasn't sure if they would return."

The two men returned with the injured man who had sustained multiple stab wounds and three medics immediately began treatment.

The man's injuries were substantial.

"The man had six stab wounds and a collapsed lung," said Spc. Samuel Wilson. "He almost died twice during treatment."

Wilson, a paramedic and third generation paratrooper, explained the treatment process. "The patient had to be chemically paralyzed

so he could be treated. We drained one and a half liters of blood from one of his lungs and applied a chest seal. We also inserted a tube into his trachea so he could breathe. We sustained his life for two hours until he could be medevaced," he said.

The man was in such poor condition that witnesses to his injuries doubted he would survive—even with the medics' treatment.

"He would have definitely died. I'm surprised he survived," said Werley. "Somebody who can go on as long as he did

with those types of injuries—all I can say is that he really wanted to live."

Medics have historically played a crucial role in the armed forces. Knowing a medic is there makes Soldiers feel safer and more confident during missions. However, one important role medics play is sometimes overlooked.

Their part in winning hearts and minds of the countrymen, which has become a priority during the war on terrorism, has been an extremely effective weapon, one which has

several benefits for the medics themselves.

"This event, as tragic as it could have been, has had positive results," said Werley. "First, this type of situation definitely wins the hearts and minds. Second, it has been a very hands-on medical experience for our medics. You can talk about decompressing a lung all day, but actually doing it on a human provides invaluable experience. Lastly, it has boosted the confidence in our medics. Seeing them work completely relaxed and calm in a life and death situation demonstrated just how skillful they are."

The medics also see the impact their work can have.

"We understand that it is a hearts and minds campaign and every opportunity we get to contribute to that campaign, we will," said Wilson.

But the personal benefits are also rewarding said Sgt. Glen Bolland, a member of the treatment team.

"It's our job to save lives whether they are American or Afghan," said Bolland. "A lot of [medics] come from families with medical backgrounds. We have an appreciation for the personal rewards of our work. It's fulfilling and then some. It's an empowering experience to save someone's life."

As impressive as the medics' performance was, not the Soldiers nor the first sergeant seemed surprised by the poise of the medics.

"We had confidence in our medics already, that's why they're here," said Werley. "I have the ultimate respect for them."



From left: Spc. David Van Hook, Sgt. Glen Bolland, and Spc. Samuel Wilson in their aid station on Fire Base Sharan, located in the Paktika province of Afghanistan. The three paratroopers saved the life of a critically-injured Afghan man brought to the FOB. The man had been stabbed several times and required immediate care.

When the going gets tough, FRGs get going

Story by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

Getting information, sharing ideas and meeting other spouses who face similar situations may be important especially during deployments.

Being overseas may also add more obstacles for the spouses, and having support or getting a question answered at the right time may present a big help.

The Family Readiness Groups exist to provide assistance and establish an operating system to gather information, get to know the other families in their unit, and maintain mutual support.

They also hold meetings, pre-deployment briefings and fund-raisers for income to sustain events and activities.

“Each group handles information and its network a little bit different than others,” said Rita Bonamego, Directorate of MWR Mobilization and Deployment Program manager.

According to Bonamego, FRGs meet every month on a specific day of the week, and each group of every unit is open to all the spouses.

“Every three or four months I have a meeting with all the FRGs and senior spouses,” said Bonamego. “My main interest is for them to meet and to network.”

“Now I am very excited because in our community we will have Navy, Air Force and Army FRG leaders. I have had three training sessions for FRG leaders in less than eight months and I think that the best part of the training that I teach is that I learn each time from what the spouses bring into the training and the network that each spouse has to give to each other,” expressed Bonamego.

She also highlighted how getting information is very important.

“Right now everyone is eager for information, but also, the spouses are more interested in participating in the group and meeting new friends,” Bonamego continued.

As a part of trying to better support family members during deployments, some FRGs started new programs.

One of these programs is called

‘Operation Baby Drop’, an extension of the 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Airborne) FRG, which focuses on taking care of the ladies who are expecting within the group.

“We do not want to duplicate what the American Red Cross or the New Parent Support Program do here at Caserma Ederle,” said Lisa Meyers, 1-508th Inf (Abn) FRG leader and a member of the military family for 17 years. “We are so fortunate to have these services here and the opportunities these organizations provide are extensive.”

Meyers explained that ‘Operation Baby Drop’ focuses on the labor and delivery part of pregnancy knowing that other programs and organizations support the expecting mother during the previous months.

“Operation Baby Drop is run by 1-508th ladies who understand this special time in someone’s life and how the deployment has affected it. I think that we are becoming callous toward the fact that this is the biggest event in a person’s life. Basically, we are there to support labor and delivery. We just want to help take care of issues that come up during those moments,” Meyers added.

Some services of the program include transportation to and from the hospital for delivery – however, emergencies are handled by the ambulance service – childcare during the mother’s delivery, providing transportation for family members from the airport when the mother is at the hospital, and acting as a labor coach if the father has not arrived yet, just to name a few, according to Meyers.

“Every situation is different. I might be able to give to one lady three days of service and to another only one or two when there are no complications,” she said.

Expecting mothers of the 1-508th Inf (Abn) FRG may fill out the operating letter to let their group know their name and the day they expect to deliver.

“There are several ladies who volunteer, but I would like to have about two to four more volunteers for the pregnancy help, since there are some spouses who are going to leave this summer.”

“This is of great interest to the community,” said Bonamego. “To see how



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston (third from left) received a briefing from Annette Evans, interim director Morale Welfare and Recreation, about the Davis Family Readiness Center and the roles Family Readiness Groups play during this deployment, during his visit to Caserma Ederle March 28. (Photo by Diana Bahr, Outlook editor)

creative and helpful these wonderful spouses are and all their groups.”

She also stressed how the FRGs handle information, which is available not only during the meetings.

“With the support of the Rear Detachment, it is like a family and whenever they have information that is pertinent for the group, they give it to the spouses who have been here longer and to the FRG leader who gives it to the key caller. The key caller then gives the information to all the other spouses. It is a very well-organized group.”

Information is also delivered through FRG meetings.

For instance, during the last 173d Airborne Brigade FRG meeting a volunteer told the group what the Translator/Interpreter Program Services offers.

“Being a spouse of a deployed Soldier and most of all overseas makes it even more difficult,” said Bonamego. “Sometimes the difficulty is the language barrier and the frustration could be greater, so we do have groups within a group, because a lot of spouses are bilingual. They meet as volunteers here and they become friends because they have a lot in common.”

The volunteer who explained what TIPS offers was Cristina Bowers, who is also married to Staff Sgt. Christopher Bowers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company,

173d Abn Bde.

Bowers started volunteering with the American Red Cross at the health clinic to improve her English.

“I started volunteering years ago. Now, I also volunteer with the TIPS program that Bonamego started years ago. After she came back, the community requested to add this service, because there is such a need for interpreters and translations,” Bowers explained. “I do something for the community and for myself at the same time.”

The program does not provide legal or medical translations but it offers a daily service to all community members, not just those belonging to an FRG.

Most of the Americans on Caserma Ederle do not speak Italian, and they may have difficulties with issues that arise when stationed in a foreign country, according to Bowers.

Being in touch with the programs and the other spouses may be helpful also to the new members in the community.

Roxana Padro just arrived in Vicenza and she is already helping by using her language experience. In fact, she is volunteering as a translator with TIPS and shows enthusiasm with other programs.

“I am new, I arrived two months ago,” said Padro. “I am looking for a job, but in the meantime I try to volunteer my time.”

Mother and Infant Pavilion dedicated



Above: Sgt. 1st Class Dolores Hernandez (right), Benincaso Mother and Infant Pavilion NCOIC, hands Gen. B.B. Bell, U.S. Army Europe commander, a baby model at the Nurse’s Station at the beginning of the tour through the facility to test the infant abduction alarm system installed to ensure the newborn’s safety and security.

The pavilion is named for Dr. Frank Benincaso, who was a pediatrician at the clinic as a colonel in the U.S. Army, and who returned after retirement in 1990 to continue caring for the children of servicemembers.



Visitors tour the facility after the ribbon-cutting ceremony. (Photos by Laura Kreider, Outlook staff)

Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

Noale in flower

The town of Noale, province of Venice, will hold its 26th celebration of 'Noale in Flower' Sunday.

In an area of over 13,000 square-meters, hundreds of companies from different regions of Italy will bring their flowers, plants, and trees. As in previous years there will also be a sector dedicated to garden tools and garden furniture.

You will also have a chance to admire the geraniums at their best as the residents of the town compete for the recognition of having the best geraniums on their balcony or garden. Noale is located northeast of Padova.

Leonardo's machines

Leonardo da Vinci has landed in Venice in an exhibit dedicated to his military and civil projects and the challenge of avoiding the fate of the mythic Icarus.

The display, at the church of San Stae, shows about 30 of the artist-inventor's ideas for machines and devices, reproduced in metal, fabric and wood.

The copies were made following codes and notes that Leonardo himself left behind.

Among the items on display, some made to scale and some life-sized, is the Ponte di Leonardo (Leonardo's bridge). There are also attention-getting flying machines and military devices reproduced with maniacal precision.

The exhibit also includes multimedia stations that illustrate Leonardo's genius in developing the many projects on display.

The church itself, which looks onto the Grand Canal, holds several works of art to include paintings by Bambini, Camerata, Balestra and G. Tiepolo.

The works of Leonardo are on display everyday from 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. until May 1.

The entrance fee is 6 Euro.

Visit a museum

Nove's Ceramic museum, located in Palazzo De Fabris, has added 125 ceramic eggs to its permanent exhibition of ceramics. The eggs have been painted by 52 different artists.

The exhibit is open Tuesday to Saturday 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The entrance fee is 3,60 euro. The eggs are on display until April 10.

Bell museum - in Villa Fogazzaro near the town of Montegalda, 18 km east of Vicenza, has one of the world's largest museum dedicated to bells.

Here you'll find hundreds of bells of all types and sizes from an endless variety of locations; in terms of both the number and the quality of the pieces, the museum has an edge over Holland's bell museum, as well as over the existing Italian bell museum in Isernia.

Included in the exhibit are the 221 large-scale 'pieces' on exhibit outside of the villa and in the courtyard and lower porticos. In addition to the bells made in Italy and the Veneto region, there are also specimens from China, Burma, Thailand, Egypt and Africa.

Also on exhibit are bells brought to Italy by monks and missionaries before the year 1000 AD.

The museum also displays examples of foundries that range from fixed industrial plants to the mobile models of traveling artisans. In addition, it houses a 10-key carillon which still functions, along with countless tiny bells, chimes, ships bells and objects used in place of bells, such as the "batole", a name taken from the local dialect.

The Bell Museum is open Wednesday-Saturday from 3-6:30 p.m. The entrance fee is 4 Euro.

Train travel in Italy

Remember the following if taking a train in Italy — to 'validate' your ticket before boarding — inspectors could demand a surcharge when checking if you haven't done so. Stamp your ticket by sliding it in the yellow machines you'll find by the tracks.

If you can, book the Eurostar, *ES*, for all journeys to main tourist centers, it's mandatory to reserve a seat but the speed and comfort of the trip is worth the extra cost.

Intercity, *IC*, trains are cheaper and can also be booked, but, unlike the Eurostar, there are no limits to who can board the train. A full IC train means people sitting in the aisles, no snack trolley and an obstacle course to the buffet car. The Interregional, *IR*, trains are similar to the Intercity but take longer and keep off the main tracks. For this reason they may be less crowded and worth considering.

Online train tables and ticket prices are available on Trenitalia's Web site: www.trenitalia.it, which is available in English.

Picasso exhibit

In Villa Olmo, located along Lake Como, there are more than 130 works of Picasso on display until July 17. Included are paintings, sketches, tapestries, etchings, linocuts, sculptures and ceramics from leading international museums and private collections.

This exhibit tells the story of this magnetic character who discovered his creative talent with the cosmos of painting art.

The Villa is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m.-10 p.m. until July 17. The entrance fee is 8 Euro.

Sigurta' gardens

These beautiful gardens, located in Valeggio sul Mincio, province of Verona, is known to be one of the most beautiful gardens in Italy.

Here visitors can enjoy the flowers, lawns, rose gardens, a small castle, water lilies, trees and bushes and water gardens.

There is a large parking area near the gardens, which on Italian holidays and Sundays it gets full very early, in this case, you will be

directed to another car park, where there is a free shuttle bus to the gardens available.

For those who do not want to visit the gardens by foot, a small train is available to take you round the park. The half hour train ride makes no stops and costs 2,50 Euro a person.

Bikes for adults and children and electric golf carts, that hold a maximum of four people are also available for hire.

Inside the gardens find food stands providing beverages, sandwiches, ice-cream, snacks and sack lunches.

Barbecues are not allowed in the gardens, food and beverages purchased or your sack lunch must be consumed in an area near the food stands.

The gardens are open from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Entrance fee is 8,50 Euro for adults; children ages 6-14 pay 6 Euro, children under 5 are admitted free.

Directions: from Vicenza 80 km: autostrada A4 exit at Peschiera d. Garda go in the direction Valeggio Mincio — find the park.

Visit the Web site: www.sigurta.it for information.

Things to see, do

Vicenza - The monthly antique market takes place in the city center Sunday from sunup to sundown, find more than 200 stalls.



The Vicenza antique market is this weekend.

Riva dell'Adige in San Giovanni Lupatoto is sponsoring 'Festa degli Aquiloni,' kite festival, Sunday at 2 p.m. Anyone with a kite, large or small, can participate.

In case of bad weather the event will be held April 17.

Verona - Jazz fans: the Teatro Filarmonico, 'The Heath Brothers' will perform Monday at 9 p.m.

Tickets are available online from www.arena.it. Also find tickets for the opera season starting June 17 in the Arena.

In Villafranca Veronese - tickets for the performance of Pat Metheny Group are on sale for their June 15 performance in the Scaligero Castle. Tickets cost 55, 35 or 25 Euro plus commission.

Go to the Web site: www.boxofficeitalia.com for sale points in the Vicenza area.

Milan - See a rowing regatta in the Idropark Fila, Sunday from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

The regatta brings together university teams from all over the world - including teams from England's traditional rowing greats, Oxford and Cambridge.

Now Showing

Caserma Ederle Theater

April 6	Assault on Precinct 13 (R)	7:30 p.m.
April 7	In Good Company (PG13)	7 p.m.
April 8	Hitch (PG13)	7 p.m.
	Alone in the Dark (R)	10 p.m.
April 9	Hitch (PG13)	2 p.m.
	Alone in the Dark (R)	7 p.m.
	Hide and Seek (R)	10 p.m.
April 10	Hitch (PG13)	2 p.m.
	Hitch (PG13)	7 p.m.

Spring Break Schedule

April 11	Scooby Doo: Monsters Unleashed (PG)	3:30 p.m.
April 12	Finding Nemo (G)	4 p.m.
April 13	Finding Nemo (G)	3:30 p.m.
April 15	Brother Bear (G)	3:30 p.m.

Family Nights

April 6	Finding Nemo (G)	5 p.m.
April 20	Scooby Doo: Monsters Unleashed (PG)	5 p.m.
April 27	Pooh's Heffalump Movie (G)	5 p.m.

Admission for Spring Break Schedule and Family Nights:

Adults age 12 and over \$4, children \$1.25.

Wednesdays and Family Night will be on a trail basis.

Response from the community will determine continuation.

Camp Darby Theater

April 8	Pooh's Heffalump Movie (G)	7 p.m.
April 9	The Wedding Date (PG13)	7 p.m.

Movie Synopsis

HITCH - *Will Smith, Eva Mendes*. Most men have difficulty finding love because it's hard to be yourself. That's where Alex "Hitch" Hitchens comes in. Alex is a "date doctor" who claims to be able to find customers their perfect romantic match in three dates or less. Sara, meanwhile, is a gossip reporter for a daily tabloid who decides to write an expose on Hitch's condescending methods. However, Sara finds her professional life and personal life on a collision course as she finds herself falling for Alex while investigating his dubious claim. She also makes Hitch re-evaluate his game, and rethink love in the process.

ALONE IN THE DARK - *Christian Slater, Tara Reid*. A supernatural detective named Carnby travels to Shadow Island to solve the mystery of a friend's death. While there, he discovers the secrets of the Abskani, an ancient tribe that worshiped demonic forces which gave them incredible powers. Carnby's findings suggest that the Abskani are poised to return to take over the world. With the help from his former girlfriend, an archeologist who has the knowledge to stop the demons, Carnby must now fight against their attempts to take over his mind as well as their attempts to conquer the Earth.

HIDE AND SEEK - *Robert DeNiro, Dakota Fanning*. As a widower tries to piece together his life in the wake of his wife's suicide, he discovers that his young daughter is coping with the death in a strange and scary manner. His daughter, Emily, finds solace by creating a creepy, maniacal imaginary friend with a terrifying vendetta.

IN GOOD COMPANY - *Dennis Quaid, Topher Grace*. Dan is demoted from head of ad sales in a corporate takeover. His new boss, Carter is half his age—a business school prodigy who preaches corporate synergy. Both men are going through turmoil at home. Dan can't afford to lose his job in the wave of corporate layoffs. Dan and Carter's relationship is thrown into jeopardy when Carter begins an affair with, Dan's daughter.

Admission: Adults age 12 and over \$4, children \$2.

The Ederle Theatre box office opens one hour prior to show time. Tickets to blockbuster shows are presold at Baskin Robbins.

Red Cross training schedule

The American Red Cross offers the following classes for the Caserma Ederle community:

CPR/First Aid Training - Dates offered are April 13 and 14 from 5-9 p.m.; and April 30 and May 7 from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Cost is \$35.

Babysitter's Training is offered Friday, and again May 7. Classes are held from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and cost \$25

Classes for CPR/First Aid

and Babysitting are held in Davis Hall.

Call the American Red Cross to register at 634-7089 or 7898.

Lifeguard training is offered April 11-15 in the Fitness Center Pool from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Cost is \$90.

Call the Fitness Center to register at 634-7616 or the Fitness Center Pool at 634-8642.

Month of the Military Child events

During the month of April we celebrate the military child and recognize the sacrifices and accomplishments of our children with events for children and their parents. The 22nd Area Support Group Directorate of MWR, along with other organizations on post, have put together a month of fun for everyone to say, "Thank You."

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Please note: No events are scheduled for Sundays</i></p> <p>For information on events listed in the calendar, call MWR at 634-7343.</p>	<p>April 5 Family Advocacy Program Workshop: Communicating with Your Child, from 5-6 p.m. at the Davis Family Readiness Center.</p>	<p>April 6 CDC Preschool Picnic Lunch and Infant/Toddler Picnic Snack Family Movie Night Finding Nemo - 5 p.m. Ederle Theater Children pay \$1.25 Villaggio Playgroup 10-11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>April 7 Elementary School Breakfast goodies</p>	<p>April 8 FCC Fun Hours from 10 a.m.-noon FAP Workshop: Discipline that Works from noon-1 p.m., Davis FRC Teen Center: BBQ and Open Mic from 4:30-6:30 p.m. ITR Family Trip to Riccione and Nature World</p>	<p>April 9 Kite Fest 10-noon Villaggio Baseball field Parent/Child ceramics class at the Art Center 10-noon Library Sidewalk Fair 11-noon Fantasyworld and Shopping with ITR</p>
<p>April 11 Villaggio Playgroup 10-11:30 a.m. FCC Pajama Days FAP Workshop: How to Protect Your Children and Yourself from Crime, 11-noon, Davis FRC Free swimming, 3-6 p.m. Spring Break movie 3:30 p.m., Scooby Doo</p>	<p>April 12 Track Challenge for ages 7-18, 10- noon Free swimming, 3-6 p.m. Spring Break movie 2 p.m., Finding Nemo FAP Workshop: The Teen Years - How Parents Can Help their Teenagers, 5-6 p.m. in Davis FRC</p>	<p>April 13 Vicenza Teen Center tour, 8 a.m.-noon Villaggio Playgroup 10-11:30 a.m. School Age Services Food Expo Free swimming, 3-6 p.m. FAP booth, 3-5 p.m. in the Food Court Spring Break Movie 2 p.m., Finding Nemo Gardaland with ITR</p>	<p>April 14 CDC Toddler Teddy Bear Picnic and Parade FAP Workshop: Child Safety, 11-noon, Davis FRC FAP Workshop: Handling Separation , 5-6 p.m., Davis FRC Parent/Child Crafts at the Art Center, 9-noon. Parent/Child Bowling, 25¢ a game</p>	<p>April 15 FAP Workshop: Talking to your Children about War, noon-1 p.m., Davis FRC Youth Services: Go Kart racing, 2-5:30 p.m. Teen Center BBQ and Movies, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Spring Break movie 2 p.m., Brother Bear Canevaworld Movie Studios with ITR CDC: Parents Night Out</p>	<p>April 16 Youth Services Baseball/ Softball season starts Cinque Terre hike with Outdoor Rec St. Moritz and Bernina Express with ITR</p>
<p>April 18 Villaggio Playgroup 10-11:30 a.m. FCC/CDC Bubble Launch, 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>April 19 FCC/CDC Wacky Hat day</p>	<p>April 20 Villaggio Playgroup 10-11:30 a.m. SAS Relay games Family Night Movies 5 p.m., Scooby Doo</p>	<p>April 21 FCC Mismatched Sock day Vicenza Elementary School, Lunch time snacks CYS FREE trip to Verona Zoo</p>	<p>April 22 CDC Beautification Day Teen Center BBQ and Movies, 4:30-6:30 p.m. FAP Workshop: Increase Your Childs' Self-esteem, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Davis FRC</p>	<p>April 23 CYS Free Ice Cream Social at Joe Dugans, Noon-2:30 p.m. FAP Pet Walk & Talk at Davis FRC, noon-2:30 p.m.</p>
<p>April 25 Villaggio Playgroup 10-11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>April 26 CDC Preschool visits the Post Office with mail for deployed parents</p>	<p>April 27 Villaggio Playgroup 10-11:30 a.m. FCC Teddy Bear picnic</p>	<p>April 28 Vicenza Elementary School Cookie Treat day</p>	<p>April 29 CDC Carnival SAS Cookout Teen Center BBQ and Movies, 4:30-6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>April 30 MWR Free pancake breakfast at Joe Dugans, 10-noon Volksmarch registration 10 a.m. Parent/Child ceramics at the Art Center, 10-noon</p>

Explore Italy and beyond with ITR trips

The Information, Tours and Registration office offers the following trips this month.

For more details, or to sign up, contact ITR Monday-Friday at 634-7094, from 10 a.m.- 6 p.m., or stop by their office across from the Shoppette parking lot.

Friday: Family Trip to Riccione – Nature World and Dolphin Show. See dolphins, sea horses, the animal farm and much more.

Cost for adults is 55; children ages 3-12 pay \$49, no charge for children under 3. Fee includes transportation, entrance fee to the park and escort assistance. IMAX (in Italian only) movie is included in fee.

Leave at 9 a.m. and return by 9 p.m.

Saturday: Venice by Train – Take a guided tour through Venice and visit St. Mark's Square and other sights.

Cost is \$23 for adults; children ages 3-12 pay \$14, no charge for children under 3. Train fare and

entrance tickets to museums are an additional charge. Fee includes bus tickets to Vicenza train station, guided tour and escort assistance.

Leave at 8 a.m. and return by 7 p.m.

Sunday: Mother and Kids Day – Go shopping and visit Fantasyworld Amusement Park. There's a bit of something for everyone! Spend the morning shopping and then visit the amusement park that features a miniature Italy in the afternoon.

Cost for adults is \$40, children ages 3-12 is \$33, children under one meter high free of charge. Fee includes transportation, entrance fee to Fantasyworld Amusement Park and escort assistance.

Leave at 7:30 a.m. and return by 7 p.m.

April 16: St. Moritz and Bernina Express – Take the famous and breathtaking train journey through the glaciers from Italy to Switzerland. Passports are required for civilians.

Cost for adults is \$59, children ages 3-12 pay \$45; no charge for children under age 3. Fee includes transportation, one-way train ticket to St. Moritz, and escort assistance.

Leave at 6 a.m. and return by 11 p.m.

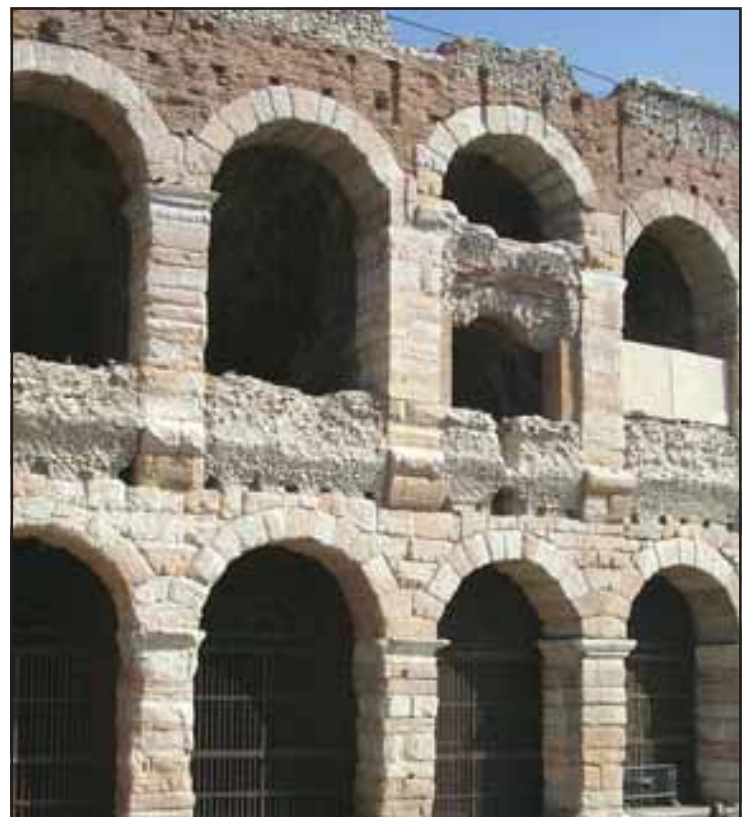
April 17: Verona and Lake Garda – Walk the cobbled streets of Verona, the town of Shakespear's Romeo and Juliette. Then head off to visit one of Italy's largest lakes.

Cost is \$29 for adults; \$15 for children ages 3-12; no charge for children under age 3. Fee includes transportation, guided tour and escort assistance.

Leave at 9 a.m. and return by 6 p.m.

April 23: San Marino – Visit the smallest nation and the oldest Republic in Europe. Cost is \$37 for adults; \$26 for children ages 3-12; no charge for children under age 3. Fee includes transportation, guided tour and escort assistance.

Leave at 7 a.m. and return by 9 p.m.



The Verona Arena dates back to the first century A.D. It is still used today and you can see it with ITR April 17.