



IMMA takes top in Europe-level maintenance awards



A Vicenza Installation Materiel Maintenance Activity automotive mechanic prepares a Humvee for repair. The IMMA won the USAREUR-level Army Award for Maintenance Excellence Table of Distribution and Allowances Small category. They will now go on to compete at the Department of the Army level.

Story and photos
By Sgt. Carlos Lazo
SETAF Augmentation Unit

The United States Army Europe and the Installation Management Agency – Europe recently honored logistical units throughout Europe for excellence in maintenance and supply. The awards were presented by Lt. Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, the Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics (G-4). Many units were present to accept their awards during the ceremony held in Heidelberg, Germany, April 4. Vicenza's own, Installation Materiel Maintenance Activity was among those units honored for excellence.

"Very proud," answers Angel Roche-Santiago, chief of the Maintenance Division at IMMA here, when asked how he feels

about winning the USAREUR-level Army Award for Maintenance Excellence Table of Distribution and Allowances Small category. Units are broken up into three competing categories depending on manpower strength. IMMA won in the category of TDA Small; Small is any unit consisting of less than 100 personnel. This is the first time the IMMA has won the award, and Roche-Santiago believes a repeat performance is possible.

"We have a base now for people to follow," said Roche-Santiago. A good thing considering the fact that competing units must submit packets for the award program, which looks at 16 key elements. "Packets take many hours [to complete]," said Roche-Santiago. Data is collected throughout the year by the unit for the packet and is time-consuming, but that doesn't seem to bother Roche-Santiago. "This unit has the

potential [to win again]," he added.

That potential is everywhere, from the military personnel to the local nationals that work with IMMA. The local nationals contributed greatly to winning the award, added Roche-Santiago. Both the military and the local national workers work well together to complete their responsibilities.

Those responsibilities include conducting maintenance on communication devices, small weapons systems and vehicles, said Roche-Santiago. That includes all the equipment used down range by the Soldiers, he added. IMMA ensures all the returning equipment is serviceable and fixes any deficiencies they may have. Along with fulfilling their obligations, the workers at IMMA also help other nearby units with their services.

See IMMA Wins on page 2

WARRIOR GAMES MMVI



Stop by the PX Food Court May 1 to sign up and get more information on the Warrior Games, which will take place June 12-14 on Caserma Ederle as part of the HomeFront Celebration. Events will include the Four-Man Warriors Challenge, Tin Man Triathlon, and Clash of the Kin (Pugil Stick single elimination and Mud, Sweat and Tears Volleyball single elimination tournament).

Following the May 1 kick-off, all registrations for events will take place at Outdoor Recreation.

Note: No drinking of alcoholic beverages will be allowed for participation and breathalyzers will be given.

New FRG Web site policy in place to protect Soldiers, family members

USAREUR Public Affairs
News Release

Protecting personal information is vital to the security of Soldiers serving down range. Enemies of the United States can harm Soldiers or the ones they love through seemingly unimportant information posted on the Internet.

To better protect Soldiers and families from becoming victims of such actions, U.S. Army, Europe has implemented a policy requiring its Family Readiness Groups to move their .com Web sites under the more secure Army Knowledge Online or the virtual FRG Web site.

"Family Readiness Group Web sites provide a place for families to find support and assistance online," said Gen. David D. McKiernan, USAREUR commanding general. "These Web sites not only provide a means for families to communicate with the chain of command, they provide access to Army resources and offer a better understanding of military life for both immediate and extended family members."

The policy is intended to ensure FRG Web sites do not provide information that may give the enemy an advantage, endanger Soldiers or compromise missions.

The enemy considers the Web and Web logs great tools to gather information, according to Sgt. 1st Class Nicolas Vazquez, USAREUR operations security manager.

"They use the Web to gather important information about us," Vazquez explained. "They can find out where we live, when and where our Soldiers are deployed, and other critical pieces of information that can be pieced together to be used against us."

The policy states all FRG Web sites in USAREUR must move to either AKO or vFRG by June 1.

The policy will help ensure information posted on FRG Web sites doesn't jeopardize Soldiers or missions, said Daniel LaChance, a policy specialist with USAREUR G-6, Office of Information Management.

"The Army made a solid commitment to its FRGs by providing them these protected sites to share personal or unit information with their deployed spouses and other authorized families," he said. "The last thing we want is for a Soldier, civilian or family member to be hurt because someone didn't protect information."

For more information on the new FRG Web site policy, contact your local information management specialist, unit operations security officer or the USAREUR webmaster.

Vicenza Health Clinic Announcement

Beginning May 6 the Vicenza Health Clinic will reduce its Saturday operating hours to 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The clinic feels it can better serve the community by increasing appointment availability during the regular workweek, when the demand is higher. This can be accomplished by reducing Saturday hours, when very few available appointments are filled.

Review of clinic usage of the past 10 months shows in fact, less than half of the available appointments are filled on weekends. On long weekends this increases slightly to half being filled.

The clinic will therefore provide additional staffing during long weekends to meet the increased demand for services. In addition, the San Bortolo Hospital Patient Liaison Service will continue running 24/7 with a 24-hour on-call provider.

IMMA WINS:

IMMA takes top in Europe-level maintenance awards

From page 1

Whenever a crane operator was necessary and all the qualified operators were tasked out, local contractors were called in, said Roche-Santiago. Some of these contractors were from places that took a two or three hour drive to get to, he added. Now, after receiving the proper training, many of the local national workers at IMMA are qualified operators and whenever an operator is needed, they're the ones called to assist.

"This saves the government money," said Roche-

Santiago. The government used to pay thousands of dollars sometimes, he added, just to have somebody come in and operate the crane for 15 minutes. Not only does it save money to use the IMMA workers to operate the cranes, it saves time as well, said Roche-Santiago.

An action like this is exactly why IMMA received the USAREUR-level Army Award for Maintenance Excellence (TDA Small), and is now in competition for the Army-level Combined Logistics Excellence Award.

Considering the fact that the workers at IMMA have many busy days ahead of them with all the returning equipment from the deployment, Roche-Santiago doesn't know if they'll have the time to compete aggressively with the other units this year, but knows with the way things are going now, IMMA will be back to compete again next year.



An IMMA automotive mechanic repairs a 15 Ton Crane.

Right: A painter with IMMA prepares the surface of a trailer for repainting. (Photos by Sgt. Carlos Lazo, SETAF Augmentation Unit)



A local national employee with IMMA unloads equipment.



Community Action Council

This forum is to discuss issues affecting the community. If you have an issue you wish to submit, visit the USAG Vicenza Web site at www.usag.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 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.

The command also reminds the community that CAC issues submitted containing vulgar, derogatory or inflammatory language will not be addressed.

Childcare is offered during the CAC at \$4 per hour, per child, for children ages 6 weeks old 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 location in the Davis Family Readiness Center.

The next CAC will be Wednesday beginning at 9 a.m. in the Ederle Theater.

Issue: "Soldiers in Uniform" Priority Hours – Lunch hour during the week is the only time when working Soldiers can hit the Community Mail Room, get minutes on their phones at the phone store, and even grab a bite to eat at the food court. Due to the large volume of family members/civilians at these locations, some days you can't pick up your box at the CMR or get minutes on your phone because the line is so long.

Recommendation: I recommend that noon-

1 p.m. Monday-Friday be "Soldiers Only" hour. Perhaps the CMR and phone store can advertise "Soldiers in uniform have priority" like the Commissary does; anything to make it easier for the working Soldier. I don't want to discourage our families and civilians from coming onto post, but encourage them to come during slower hours i.e. 2 p.m. I propose we as a community become more Soldier friendly at AAFES run establishments.

Response from AAFES: The hours of operation for the Cell phone shop are 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Sundays. We have temporarily extended the hours during reintegration. In fact, until April 10, on Tuesdays and Thursdays the cell phone shop was open 9 a.m.-8 p.m. In order to limit congestions the cell phone shop contractor has placed two vending machines that sell recharge cards. One is located in the Shoppette entrance and one is next to the ATM by the PX entrance.

Response from the Directorate of Human Resources: The CMR is a garrison service provided to all the community members, which includes Soldiers, school teachers and all other civilian employees and their family members. CMR management is very much "pro-customer service" and aware of the peak busy hours of the day and have taken steps to eliminate the long lines for everyone. Currently there is only one customer service window to accommodate the 4260 personal mail boxes. As such the CMR schedules three employees to work the window from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. daily, which has eliminated the long waiting period. The construction of a new CMR Annex has begun and will be completed on or about September time frame with an additional customer service window and will speed up all transactions for mail services. Please know our goal is to provide excellent customer service to this garrison, all community members and especially our Soldiers.

Issue: Juvenile Misconduct – What is being

done about juveniles who misbehave in this community? Youth are vandalizing government property and POVs. They are also consuming alcohol and using illegal drugs. Our youth are misrepresenting us and providing a poor example to our Host Nation citizens. What can be done to rectify this growing problem?

Recommendation: Hold parents and youth accountable for their actions.

Response from DHR: The Juvenile Review Board, initiated in June 2005, was designed to address juvenile misconduct by reducing the acts of misconduct as well as recidivism. The JRB also focuses on deterrence and education to achieve results.

The community has been made aware of the JRB through the following mediums: results of the JRB published in *The Outlook*; information campaigns with AFN; AAFES security tours; SNAP Education; Dare Education; and Community Service Program.

The JRB has held eight boards to date and adjudicated 39 cases to date. A total of 24 cases are now closed and 15 cases remain open. The range of offenses is as follows:

- Shoplifting – 18
- Possession/Use of Drugs – 5
- Possession/Use of Alcohol – 5
- Assault – 2
- Vandalism – 4
- Illegal Entry – 3
- Curfew Violation – 2

The range of actions is:

- Bars from post – 4 (2 Limited)
- Early Return of Dependents – 7 (Self or command directed)
- AAFES Suspension – 16 (1 From Naples and 1 Not Guilty)
- Social Work Services/Family Advocacy Program/Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Service – 16
- Community Service – 30

Issue: Excessive Morning Traffic – The traffic is backed up and causing issues around

the entrance areas. This is very frustrating when we are trying to make it to work by 8 am. I sat in traffic this morning for 25 minutes. Needless to say I was late for work.

Something seriously has to be done about the 7:30-8:30 a.m. traffic issue coming into post. Not only is it an annoyance to people on post, I'm sure that the local nationals' morning commute is being highly interfered with. I learned that Gate Four was backed up around two different side streets. I understand that the MPs and Carabinieri are working hard to deal with traffic, but two gates are nowhere near sufficient for the traffic flow now that a good portion of our Soldiers are back and more are on the way.

Recommendation: Open up Gate 2 and/or gate 4b for incoming traffic from 7:30-9 a.m. to accommodate for the extra flow of cars.

Response from the Directorate of Emergency Services: Gate 2 is now open from 6:30-8:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. Gate 2 and Gate 4 are closed when U.S. holidays and Italian rest days fall on the same day.

Issue: Information About Local Businesses – Can some type of information be put out in the local paper about what is going on around Vicenza? The stores were open yesterday (Sunday), and the only reason I was aware of the opening, besides the traffic, was the fact that I drove by and the parking lot was full.

Recommendation: Provide information in *The Outlook* when the malls and other businesses are open on a Sunday, i.e. information letting us know when the dates and times local businesses are open on certain Sundays.

Response from the USAG Vicenza Public Affairs Office: *The Outlook* appreciates the suggestion and will find a contact at the malls and see if they have a list of the Sundays they are going to be open throughout the year to publish those shopping Sundays in *The Outlook*. Look for Vicenza community information on page 6 in the "Out & About" section.

Raise a Reader gets youngsters started on right track

Story by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

New parents and their new born at the Benincaso Mother and Infant Pavilion will be receiving a complimentary gift.

This donation is part of the Raise a Reader program, which is designed to encourage young mothers to read to their infants.

The first book bag was presented at the facility to Claire Banks and her son, Ashton, by Stephen Brown, librarian, Ederle Library, on April 4.

"The books are generously donated by the Vicenza Military Spouses and Civilians Club," said Capt. Myong S. Woo, Benincaso Mother and Infant Pavilion head nurse.

The VMSCC in coordination with the post library have prepared "I read to my baby" book bags to donate to the new mothers of babies born at the center.

The book bag includes a Raise a Reader bookmark and the book "More, More, More,

Said the Baby" by Vera B. Williams.

The book is an award winning Caldecotte Honor Book.

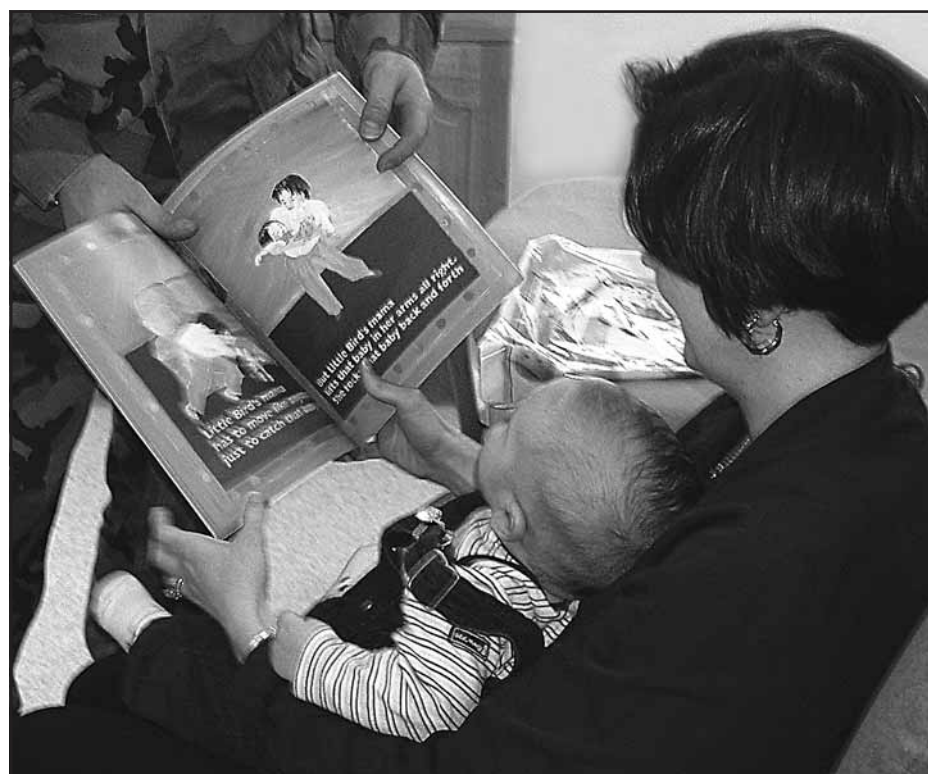
Banks appreciated the kind gift.

"I know that language is developed very soon with children," said Banks.

"It just makes me know that I'm doing something that is developmentally appropriate for him, and from what I understand, you can never start to soon reading to your infant. So hopefully we're developing those language skills now for him later," she continued.

"These books will be handed out to all mothers who deliver their infants at the Benincaso Mother Infant Pavilion to ensure a good start to reading," added Woo.

A new mother reads to her baby after receiving the first "I read to my baby" book bag donated by the Vicenza Military Spouses and Civilians Club in coordination with the Ederle Library at the Benincaso Mother and Infant Pavilion. (Photo courtesy of Capt. Myong S. Woo, Benincaso Mother and Infant Pavilion)



TRO opens on ground floor

Lt. Col. Angela Haynes, executive officer, USAG Vicenza, and Frederick Driscoll, Tax Relief Office manager, Directorate of Morale, Welfare, and Recreation, cut the ribbon officially opening TRO's new location on the ground floor near the Thrift Store on Friday. The new location makes access easier for TRO customers. TRO is open Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The new location features three customer services workstations with added space for privacy. (Photo by Barbara Romano, 7th ATC Photo Lab)

AER accepting contributions

Army Emergency Relief is a private non-profit organization incorporated in 1942 by the Secretary of War and the Army Chief of Staff. AER's mission is to provide emergency financial assistance to Soldiers. It is designed to assist active and retired Soldiers and their family members with unforeseen financial emergencies. The purpose of the campaign is not only to solicit contributions, but also to educate and create awareness.

For more information or to contribute contact: Staff Sgt. Kathleen Joseph, 634-7437; Sgt. Daniel Bregaglio, 634-7145; Angela Crosland, 634-8524; or Doris Planas, 634-8634.

Sure Start program accepting applications

Free preschool

Vicenza Elementary School
Press Release

Vicenza Elementary School has available the Sure Start Preschool Program that is modeled after Head Start in the United States. It is a full day, high quality preschool for 4 year olds. It targets children who may potentially be "at risk" for not being ready for kindergarten the following year.

There is a mandatory parent education component that includes scheduled home visits, quarterly parent meetings and participation in the classroom. Applications are

being accepted now for the school year 2006-07, and children must be 4 years old by Oct. 31.

The program is designed for children of sponsors ranking E4 and below, but anyone is welcome to fill out an application.

The Sure Start class size is limited to 16 children, but applications are taken all year long. If the class is full, applicants are put into a "waiting pool" and when there is an opening, the child most qualified is selected by the steering committee.

Considerations for enrollment may include one or more of the following conditions:

- o Child will be 4 by Oct. 31
- o Sponsors rank is E4 or below

- o Child had a low birth weight, below 5.5 pounds
 - o Child has parent/s whose primary language is not English
 - o Parent/s were teenagers when the first child was born
 - o Parent/s did not graduate from high school
 - o Child lives in a single parent home
 - o The child's sponsor is currently deployed
 - o The child has an older sibling with a disability
 - o At home there are three or more children close in age
- Visit the Vicenza Elementary School office for an application or call 634-7579 for more information about Sure Start.

Aldo Moro gate for vehicle traffic only

Directorate of Emergency Services
Community Announcement

As warmer weather approaches, bicycle and pedestrian traffic tends to increase both on and off the installation. The Directorate of Emergency Services wants to remind the community of the rules for entering and exiting the installation by vehicle, on foot, or bicycle.

Aldo Moro Gate (Gate 1 or the Main Gate) is strictly for vehicular traffic only. Personnel are not allowed to enter or exit this gate by foot or bicycle.

All pedestrian traffic and bicycle traffic must enter through the Chapel Gate (Gate 2) or the Housing Office Gate

(Gate 4) located on via Cassermette.

Gate 1 is open 24 hours a day, and Gate 4 is open Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Gate 2 is open 24 hours a day for pedestrian traffic. It is open for inbound vehicular traffic from 6:30-8:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. Gate 2 is also open for outbound traffic from 4:30-6 p.m. Monday through Friday to accommodate exiting the installation during peak traffic hours.



For questions concerning the hours of operation for any gate or gates that are restricted for certain types of traffic, please contact the Military Police Desk Sergeant at 634-7626 or the PMO Operations Section at 634-8891 or 634-7248.

The Outlook

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You are never too old

Transportation assistant develops swimming passion at 45, recently wins silver in regional championships at age 49

By Maj. Tim Sheets
839th Transportation Battalion, Livorno

At 45 years old, when most people are considering giving up sports, Riccardo Scotto, transportation assistant, 839th Transportation Battalion, decided to not only take up a new one... but compete in it as well.

One day after taking his sons, Davide, 15, and Dario, 12, to swimming practice, he decided to while away the time by jumping in the pool with them.

"There were two extra lanes in the pool that were open to everyone, so I started swimming while I was waiting for the boys to finish," explained Scotto. Before long, his natural talent had the attention of the local swim club, *Dimensione Nuoto Pontedera*, who invited him to join the team.

"It was an honor to join the *Pontedera* club because they have won so many championships," Scotto said. In fact, the

Pontedera team won the Tuscany Cup three years in a row.

Training three times a week with the club soon yielded big rewards.

In 2004, Scotto won a gold in the 200 meter breast stroke, making him the regional champion. He then represented his team in the Italian Championships in Livorno and placed 3rd in the 100 meter breast stroke, making Scotto, then age 47, a national champion.

Scotto moved from there to represent his team at the FINO World Masters Champions in Rimini, Italy, competing against thousands of people from all over the world.

Scotto said, "They had people from all over; on one side of me was a guy from Texas, on the other a guy from Mexico."

Four years and 18 metals since starting his training, Scotto most recently won a silver medal in the 200 meter breast stroke during Regional Championships in Arezzo, Italy.

An inspiration to all who think they are too old to follow their dreams, Scotto had

these words of wisdom to share, "It's never too late to do something that you want to do. Besides, if you feel young inside, it doesn't matter how old you are. It's very important to keep your inner child alive."

"I believe that if you do everything with love and patience, you will have good results. Sometimes things look hard, but if you believe in your own power, you will be successful in anything you do," he said.

Right: Riccardo Scotto, transportation assistant, 839th Transportation Battalion, poses for a photo with all his medals won from swimming competitions. Scotto began swimming for fun at age 45 and became a national champion two years later. "I believe that if you do everything with love and patience, you will have good results," said Scotto.



DoDDS schools Europe-wide open for 2006-07 registration

DoDDS
News Release

Department of Defense Dependents Schools across Europe have begun the process of re-registering and pre-registering students for the 2006-2007 school year.

Sponsors of children new to the DoDDS-E system must register their children for the year ahead. Sponsors of students who attended DoDDS-E schools this school year must re-register their children. School registration is an annual requirement by DoD Regulation to determine continued eligibility for school enrollment.

Accurate and complete school enrollments assist DoDDS-Europe in obtaining appropriate resources for the coming school year. It is a critical activity for schools since funding and staffing authorizations are based on enrollment and enrollment projections.

School principals across Europe are working diligently to ensure that the annual registration process is efficient and customer-friendly. Principals will advise parents and other sponsors through newsletters, email and other communications about the date, location, and details of dedicated registration days or open houses. Parents are urged to participate. Options for personnel who cannot participate will be publicized as well.

The DoDDS-Europe Pre-Registration Web site is available for all parents and sponsors to pre-register students for next year. Access to the site is through the "Registration" link on the official DoDDS-Europe Web site www.eu.dodea.edu.

Instructions for creating a user ID and password as well as a downloadable user manual are on the site. A help link allows users to request assistance via email. Parents can update information, enter new students, and print the standard forms needed for registration.

Some schools request parents complete the online registration at the school; others ask them to do so off-site. School offices provide guidance and help.

School registrars can access online pre-registrations to call up information for families who have pre-registered, and can update that information and print out the standard registration forms.

Parents and sponsors should keep in mind that they will still have to complete the registration process in person at their child's school.

Parents should check with their children's school to learn about upcoming registration activities, which differ from school to school. Those unable to register their children during these dedicated times can still complete the registration paperwork at the school's main office on a walk-in basis.

Recent changes in eligibility codes have expanded "space-required" access to DoDDS-E schools for the children of Department of Defense contractors and full-time Appropriated Fund and Non-Appropriated Fund employees who were previously classified as "space-available." The latest information on category changes is available on the DoDDS-E Web site at www.eu.dodea.edu. Click on the "Eligibility" link on the home page.

Families PCSing to Europe as well as those already stationed here can receive additional assistance from their community's Schools Liaison Officer. This can be especially helpful for parents and sponsors who wish to begin the registration process before arriving at their duty station, but need additional information and help. SLOs can be contacted through individual community Web sites.

For more information, visit your school's Web site, also reached through the DoDDS-E official homepage at www.eu.dodea.edu, or contact your local school office.

Footlight theatre troupe performs a not-so-Shakespearian rendition of "Macbeth"



Youth perform in Footlight Final Class Presentation at Soldiers' Theatre Wednesday. The program included poems and scenes and songs from "Macbeth - The Musical Comedy." Some monologues by the children concluded the presentation.

"I always enjoy working with children," said Bonnie Daniels, teacher of the class. "The Skies program started seven weeks ago. I have been teaching about one hour and a half twice a week except for the past week when we put extra hours to prepare for the presentation."

Elizabeth Buffington, Gabriel Cohen, Luka Fatuesi, Paola Lora, Krista McBride, Jeremy Peterson, Angela Pitts and Destany Schendel, the eight Footlight participants in the class, explained that they had fun while learning.

"She taught everything we needed," said forth-grader Jeremy Peterson. "We learned about cooperation and respect, and we also played games."

Destany Schendel, fourth grade, commented that she liked her teacher and the play chosen for the performance.

Also some other students such as Paola Lora, third-grade, enjoyed "learning diction, blocking and making your voice loud," she said. (Photo by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)

Spring Clean-Up

All units and agencies on Caserma Ederle and the Vicenza Area of Responsibility will be conducting Spring Clean-up on May 3-5 beginning at 9 a.m. This includes housing areas, government lease properties and private rental properties. This is taking place in order to achieve, maintain and kick-start a high standard of appearance and upkeep of the installations and housing areas. For more information on Spring Clean-Up contact USAG Vicenza Operations at 634-7568.

Recycling Information

The Environmental Division will have a recycling initiative in conjunction with Spring Clean-Up. They will provide information regarding recycling of all types of wastes including information on recycling in different communities.

Stop by their stand in front of the PX on May 5 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m and pick up recycling information.

Feel free to contact the Environmental Division with any questions at eco@setaf.army.mil.

Doolittle Tokyo Raiders Celebrate 64th Anniversary

By Steven Donald Smith
American Forces Press Service
Photos by William D. Moss

Eight of the surviving 16 “Doolittle Tokyo Raiders” gathered at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force April 18 for their 64th annual reunion and to remember those who have gone before them.

“We’re gathered to remember a historic event that changed the hearts of the American people,” Lloyd Bryant, a Dayton, Ohio, radio announcer and former U.S. Air Force officer, said at the memorial ceremony. “We are here to pay tribute to those brave men, whose courageous action gave Americans their first glimpse of victory during the darkest days of World War II.”

The Doolittle Raiders were a group of 80 volunteer airmen from the U.S. Army Air Forces who on April 18, 1942, flew 16 B-25 Mitchell airplanes from the deck of the USS Hornet on a daring mission to bomb Japan. Their name is derived from the man who led the air raid, Army Lt. Col. James H. “Jimmy” Doolittle.

The raiders’ objective was to bomb multiple Japanese cities and then land at an airstrip in China for refueling. Unfortunately, a Japanese patrol boat spotted the Hornet, forcing the Americans to launch the attack hundreds of miles before the intended launch point. After dropping their payloads, the raiders continued on toward China, but a combination of bad weather and low fuel forced the crewmembers to either bail out or crash land in a Japanese-occupied portion of China. One plane landed safely in Russia, where its crew was interned.

“We were on empty and flew about 500 miles inside the coast of China before we ran out of fuel and had to bail out in Japanese-occupied territory,” co-pilot retired Lt. Col. Bob Hite said. The Japanese captured Hite along with his crew. He was held as a prisoner of war until Japan surrendered in August 1945.

The raid achieved little in terms of



Retired Lt. Col. Chase Nelson, of the famed Doolittle Raiders, speaks April 18 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, during a reunion commemorating the raid’s 64th anniversary.

damage inflicted on Japan, but was a huge morale booster to the American people, coming just four months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Navigator retired Lt. Col. Chase Nielson, who also was held as a prisoner of war, said he hoped the actions of the Doolittle Raiders would always serve as an inspiration to all Americans. “I learned a few lessons, especially how to appreciate mankind, our democracy and the beautiful wonderful world we live in,” he said. “I hope others do too.”

Nielson said the greatest satisfaction he got from participating in the raid was the fact that he helped defend the ideals of the United States. “We are all honored that we had a part in protecting the freedoms and the democracy that we call the United States,” Nielson said. “There isn’t a better place in the world to live, believe me.”

The surviving members of the raid cite the leadership of Jimmy Doolittle as the biggest factor in enabling them to undertake their perilous mission. “We had a great leader in Jimmy Doolittle,” Tom Griffin, who was a 25-year-old lieutenant at the time of the raid, said. “He was the kind of leader who made us believe we could do this job.”

“We all felt that Jimmy Doolittle was No. 1,” Hite added. “He had it all — intelligence, bravery and great leadership qualities.”

Also attending the reunion was Tung Sheng Liu, a Chinese citizen who at age 24 helped one of the Doolittle crews escape the clutches of the Japanese. Liu, who spoke some English at the time, acted as a translator between the raiders and other sympathetic Chinese citizens. After some intense planning and daring maneuvering, Liu and his cohorts delivered the crew safely to Chungking, a city in southwestern China that was not occupied by Japan.

“It took us 10 days to travel a short distance, because it was occupied territory. Japanese units constantly patrolled,” Liu said. “Then we traveled two more days by bus, eventually making it to Chungking.”

In 1946, Liu moved to Minneapolis to attend graduate school and was stunned two years later when he learned that the Doolittle reunion was scheduled to be held there. “I read this in the paper and went to join them,” he said. “They welcomed me as an honorary raider. I’ve been coming to the reunion ever since.”

The bond among the Doolittle Raiders has remained tight over the years. “They’re a great bunch of guys. We all know each other’s children and grandchildren,” Griffin said. “We’re like a big family.”

“This is a pretty fine group of guys,” Hite said. “I don’t know anybody better.”

The first 10 Doolittle Raiders reunions were attended by the crewmembers only and, Griffin said, were somewhat raucous affairs. But when their wives began attending, things began to calm down a bit, he said. “From then on, the whole tenor of the reunions changed,” Griffin said. “We calmed down and got to bed like civilized people. But the first 10 were some pretty wild reunions.”

Other Doolittle Raiders in attendance were Bill Bower, Ed Horton, Frank Kappeler, Dick Cole and David Thatcher.

Doolittle Raids: Beginning of End for Imperial Japan



A B-25 Mitchell takes off from the aircraft carrier USS Hornet for the Doolittle Raid of Japan, April 18, 1942. (Photo courtesy of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base)

By Steven Donald Smith
American Forces Press Service

The stuff of legend is often a fusion of myth and reality. The legendary feat of the “Doolittle Tokyo Raiders” is just plain unadulterated truth.

On April 18, 1942, 16 Army B-25 Mitchell airplanes containing 80 volunteer airmen from the U.S. Army Air Forces, led by Army Lt. Col. James H. “Jimmy” Doolittle, took off from the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier Hornet on a daring mission to strike at the heart of Imperial Japan. It was the first U.S. offensive action of World War II, just four months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

The plan called for the B-25s to take off from the carrier about 450 miles from the Japanese islands, bomb selected targets, and then fly another 1,200 miles to friendly airfields on mainland China. The plan took a detour when a Japanese patrol boat sighted the Hornet and its flotilla and radioed back to Japan about an impending attack. American commanders decided to launch their attack ahead of schedule and about 700 miles off shore.

All 16 planes, containing five crewmembers each, reached the Japanese islands and dropped their bombs on various targets, including oil stores, factories and military installations. They then proceeded across the East China Sea.

As darkness fell, the raiders were running low on fuel and a storm kicked up. The airmen were flying over Japanese-occupied Chinese territory when they realized they could not reach the safe harbor of the Chinese airfields. Eleven of the crews bailed out, and four crash-landed — one offshore, one inland and two on the coastline. The 16th plane landed in Vladivostok in the Soviet Union, where the crew was held captive until they escaped through Iran in 1943.

Two of the crewmen drowned, and a third died while ditching his plane.

The Japanese captured eight of the Doolittle Raiders. These prisoners of war were tortured and starved, and the Japanese eventually executed three of the men. Another later died of malnutrition. The remaining four were freed by American troops in August 1945.

The crewmembers who were not captured or killed made their way to safety, many with the aid of Chinese citizens.

The results of the Doolittle-led raid were negligible in terms of material damage on Japan, but huge in terms of psychological damage to the Japanese and as a morale booster back in the United States.

Another effect of the raid was to force Japan to recall some of its forces to defend the Japanese homeland, which weakened its Pacific presence. This would come to haunt them in future engagements, such as the Battle of Midway in June 1942.

The Doolittle Raid is considered a classic in the history of aerial warfare because of the daring use of Army land-based bombers in a joint operation from a Navy ship. The B-25 was perfect for the mission, because it could carry a heavy payload, travel long distances, and could get airborne from a short runway.

Following the raid on Japan, Jimmy Doolittle was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and was promoted to brigadier general. He later commanded U.S. aviation forces in both Europe and the Pacific. Doolittle became a lieutenant general in 1944, and two years later retired from active military duty.

Of the 80 original Doolittle Raiders, only 16 are still alive today. Seven lost their lives during or as a result of the Tokyo raid; 12 were killed as the war progressed; and 45 have died since the war ended.



Eight of the surviving Doolittle Raiders, an author who wrote a book on the raid, and the son of the team’s namesake stand at a new memorial to the famous raid during a reunion at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, commemorating the raid’s 64th anniversary April 18. (left to right) Lt. Tom Griffin; Lt. Col. Chase Nielson; Sgt. David Thatcher; Master Sgt. Ed Horton; Lt. Col. Bob Hite; Lt. Frank Kappeler; Carroll V. Glines, a retired colonel and author of the book “The Doolittle Raid”; Col. John Doolittle, son of Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle, who led the famous raid; Col. Bill Bower; and Lt. Col. Dick Cole.

Right: The back of the monument commemorating the famed Doolittle Raiders of World War II lists the flight crews, flight order, targets and final destinations. The monument is at the National Museum of the U. S. Air Force, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.



Out & About

Country fest

In the town of Lanze, 10 kilometers from Vicenza, on the sports ground on Via Don Giovanni Stefani there will be three days of country music and dancing April 28, 29 & 30. The gates will open at 8:30 p.m. each evening. On April 28 the Ohio Express Band will perform, April 29 sees the Fool Brand and April 30 see Eros DJ and Mister DJ. Apart from the music and line dancing there will also be a large food tent set up serving different Italian and Tex-Mex specialties. There will be an entrance fee on April 28 and 29 which includes a small drink. On April 30 entrance is free.

Asparagus Festival

The agricultural farm located on Via Po in Marola will open its gates to all who wish to taste their home grown asparagus on April 30 and May 1 at 10 a.m. In the afternoon it will also be possible to help with the harvest. The farm is located just after passing the pizzeria "Cuor di Napoli" and the gas station on the left-hand side of Via Ca' Balbi coming from post. Depending on the season, this farm also grows potatoes, apples, grapes and makes its own wine.

Exhibitions

Vicenza will host its 7th Solar Expo at the exhibition grounds April 27-29. This year there will be a special focus on the solar thermal and PV market which is going to take a huge boost following the official approval of the much awaited PV feed-in tariffs. Solarexpo will also present new sections dedicated to biomass energy, ecomaterials, sustainable architecture and energy efficiency. Open each day 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Entrance fee is 12 euro.

The International Arts and Crafts Fair is already underway in Florence and is being held in the Fortezza da Basso, which is located next to the railway station. This fair, now in its 71st year, attracts more than 200,000 visitors each year. Find clothing and accessories, silverware and jewelry, furnishing and furnishing accessories, costume jewelry, food and wine products and beauty and health products. In fact, the fair presents display after display of crafts and typical products, which are usually also available for purchase, making this a place to do gift shopping for all the friends and family who weren't able to join you. Open each day from 10 a.m.-11 p.m. until May 1.

The town of Sabbioneta, lying near Mantova in southern Lombardia, is a small jewel of a place that was built by the local ruler Vespasiano Gonzaga during the 16th century to fulfill his dream of an ideal city. Now little more than a country village, it boasts strangely grand star-shaped city walls and buildings such as a Palladian-style *Teatro Olimpici*, *Palazzo Ducale*, and *Palazzo del Giardino*. This month Sabbioneta also plays host to the 30th *Mostra Mercato dell'Antiquariato*, one of the longest established and important antique fairs in Italy. Involving hundreds of antique dealers, it offers the double satisfaction of admiring the beautiful wares on display and their noble settings, the rooms of *Palazzo Ducale* itself. Open weekdays 3-8 p.m. and weekends 10 a.m.-8 p.m. through May 1. Entrance fee is 8 euro.

Running of the Bulls in Spain

Not too early to make plans for a visit to Pamplona, Spain to see, or participate in, the festival of San Fermin, which takes place July 7-14. This festival, which is also shown on TV world-wide often surprises, impresses or shocks each year the spectators as they watch the spectacle of bulls running through the streets of the town and hundreds of young men and women, usually dressed in traditional white shirts and red belts, running ahead of them. The race of 825 meters is run along certain stretches of the streets of the town along with six bulls as well as two herds of tame bulls. Start time is 8 a.m. every morning, although runners must be ready at the start line at 7:30 a.m. In the races thousands of people participate every year and security measures are in place throughout the

bull run, nevertheless, statistics show that since 1924, the time that official records have been kept, there have been 15 deaths and 240 horn injuries. There are lots of Web sites on the running of the bulls, but the official site is www.pamplona.net.

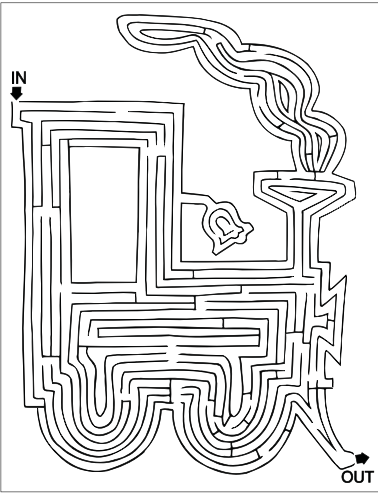


By Dorothy Spagnuolo

Visit a Maze

Several mazes can be found in the Veneto area and visiting one of them can turn out to be an enjoyable and educational day out with the children. The first to be found in the gardens of *Villa Pisani*, in the town of Stra, was created in 1720. The maze is formed of a thick hedge and the route is approximately 500 meters long. In the center of the maze is a small panoramic tower that has a spiral staircase on the outside of it and is topped by a statue of Minerva. Going to the top you will be able to plan your route out again without running into the thick hedge. The villa is open daily from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Closed on Mondays. Entrance fee for the villa and park is 5 euro.

The maze in the *Giardino Giusti* in Verona was designed in 1786. It is 400 meters wide, geometric in style and is formed of a thick hedge which is over a meter in height. The gardens, which are located 10 minutes from the arena are open everyday from 9 a.m.-7p.m. Entrance fee is 5 euro; children younger than 10 years of age are free. Apart from the maze, which is considered to be one of the most ancient in Europe, also enjoy *grotte acustiche*, echo cave, mythological statues, fountains, the flowers and trees. The gardens take over two hours to visit.



The garden in the town of Valsanzibio, province of Padova, ranges among the most important and unspoiled gardens in the world. Planned in 1669 by the Venetian nobleman Z. F. Barbarigo, his son Gregorio, a cardinal and future saint, inspired the symbolic meaning of the plan drawn by Luigi Bernini, a Vatican architect and fountain expert. In the gardens find fountains and fishponds, a large maze, the "rabbits" island, statues galore, lots of trees and more. The garden is open everyday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and from 2 p.m.-sunset. Entrance fee is 8.50 euro, for children 6-14 years of age the fee is 5.50 euro. There is also a store in the gardens open in the afternoon but closed on Tuesdays. Valsanzibio is located 36 kilometers from Vicenza. Before you visit the gardens, check out the map and get directions from www.valsanzibiogiardino.it.

Visit a Cheese Factory

Who hasn't heard of Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese? Guided visits to one of their many dairies takes place every Monday through Friday and shows all the processing phases for the production of the cheese. It is also possible to buy the cheese directly at the dairy. The guided visits are free and with prior coordination can be in English. Visits last approximately three hours and start at 8 a.m. The dairies are located in Parma, Reggio-Emilia, Modena, Bologna and the one nearest to Vicenza: Mantova. Visit www.parmigiano-reggiano.it for further information.

Iris Garden of Florence

The Iris Garden of Florence – once an olive grove – is open to the public April 29-May 21. The garden is perched on the east slope of the lofty *Piazzale Michelangelo* overlooking the city of Florence. It's hybrid iris collections grow around and among the ancient twisted trees that still survive. So exclusive is the garden that its gates are open only 23 days each year. On paths winding gently down the hillside from the Piazza, the garden reveals a birds-eye view of Florence, the Arno River and the mountains beyond. Since medieval times, the iris has been the symbol of Florence, appearing on its coat of arms, banner and minted coin – the florin. Opening hours are 10 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. and 3-7 p.m. Entrance is free.

Vintage Car, Bike Parts Market

This weekend, April 29-30, at the exhibition grounds of Vicenza, located near Vicenza west autostrada exit, the 14th *Mostra Scambio Auto Moto d'Epoca*, antique car and bike market, will take place. This is the place to find spare parts for your vintage car or bike. Open 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. each day. Entrance fee is 7 euro.

Now Showing

Caserma Ederle Theater

April 25	Annapolis (PG13)	7 p.m.
April 26	Nanny McPhee (PG)	7 p.m.
April 27	Annapolis (PG13)	7 p.m.
April 28	When A Stranger Calls (PG13)	7 p.m.
	Final Destination 3 (R)	9:30 p.m.
April 29	16 Blocks (PG13)	7 p.m.
	Final Destination 3 (R)	9:45 p.m.
April 30	Something New (PG13)	4 p.m.
	16 Blocks (PG13)	7 p.m.
May 1	CLOSED	
May 2	Something New (PG13)	7 p.m.

Camp Darby Theater

April 28	Final Destination 3 (R)	6 p.m.
April 29	Running Scared (R)	6 p.m.
April 30	Annapolis (PG13)	2 p.m.

Movie Synopsis

FINAL DESTINATION 3 - *Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Ryan Merriman* - When a high school student fails to stop the fated roller coaster ride that she predicted would cause the deaths of several of her friends, she teams with a schoolmate, in a race against time to prevent the Grim Reaper from revisiting the survivors of the first tragedy.

SOMETHING NEW - *Sanaa Lathun, Simon Baker, Mike Epps* - While 42.4% of African- Americans have never been married, Kenya, a professional African-American woman is determined to do something about it. She is shocked to discover, however, that she's falling in love with a white landscaper.

16 BLOCKS - *Bruce Willis, Dante 'Mos Def' Smith* - A troubled NYPD officer is forced to take a happy, but down-on-his-luck witness 16 blocks from the police station to 100 Centre Street, although no one wants the duo to make it.

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.

Little snacks, treats to celebrate Month of the Military Child

Lilly Boyd hands out snacks to Vicenza Elementary School students Friday morning. Boyd and Norie McCall, school liaison officer, organized the handing out of snacks to school children celebrating the Month of the Military Child along with the help of many volunteers. The group obtained, packaged and delivered over 3,000 snacks to the roughly 1,000 students of Vicenza Elementary and High School, serving 1,000 snacks each week during month. Students from the National Honor Society also assisted the group and contributions were received from the Parent, Teacher, Student Association, the Commissary and the Vicenza Military Spouses and Civilians Club. (Photo by Spc. Justin Nieto, SETAF Public Affairs)