



The Outlook

February 14, 2006

U.S. Army Garrisons Vicenza & Livorno

www.USAG.Vicenza.Army.Mil

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Looking Sharp

Col. Virgil Williams, USAG Vicenza commander, inspects the color guard of the 10th JROTC Battalion at the Vicenza High School gym as part of the battalion inspection Wednesday. The battalion is in the top 10 percent of JROTC programs in the world, giving their senior Army commander, retired Maj. George Smailes, the authority to nominate his cadets for any U.S. military academy. "Know that the skills you learn here will help you regardless of what profession you choose after high school," said Williams, after giving the order "fall out" to the formation. Williams spoke to each student one-on-one throughout his inspection. (Photo by Spc. Justin Nieto, SETAF Public Affairs)

DoD official outlines overseas voting guidelines

Federal Voting Assistance Program aids 2006 election process

By Sgt. Sara Wood, USA
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – U. S. servicemembers and federal employees stationed overseas need to act quickly to request absentee ballots for this year's primary and general elections, a Defense Department official said.

This year, U. S. citizens will elect 34 senators, the entire House of Representatives, 37 state governors, and hundreds of state and local officials. Primaries begin in March, and the general election is Nov. 7.

To participate in their home states' elections, servicemembers and overseas citizens need to complete a Federal Post Card Application requesting an absentee ballot, said Scott Wiedmann, deputy director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program. The

application needs to be completed and returned as quickly as possible, to give the local election office time to mail the ballot to the citizen and then time for the ballot to be returned before the state's deadline, he said.

"For the Federal Post Card Application, we recommend they send it in as early as possible in the year," he said. "Anytime that they move during that year, they should send another form in so the local election official has their address and the ballot will get to them in a timely manner."

All U. S. servicemembers, federal employees and their families, and U. S. citizens living overseas are allowed to vote in their home states under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, Wiedmann said. This year's elections are especially important for servicemembers, because Congress controls many aspects of military life, such as housing, health care and retirement benefits, he said.

"It's important for them to exercise their right to vote and cast a vote for the individual they think will represent them best," he said.

Federal Post Card Applications are available from military voting assistance officers, who are part of every unit, and U. S. embassies and consulates, Wiedmann said. The forms can also be accessed on the Federal Voting Assistance Program's Web site, www.fvap.gov.

The Web site also offers instructions on completing the form. Servicemembers can receive extra help from their voting assistance officers, who have access to the voting assistance guidebook, Wiedmann said. This guidebook has specific instructions for each state, including deadlines for registration and how to fill out the application form, he said.

The Federal Post Card Application has been improved this year, Wiedmann said. It's sealed better, so personal information can't be seen by anyone handling it, and there is a space for citizens to include e-mail addresses so election officials can contact them quickly if there's a problem with their forms, he said.

See Overseas Voting page 4

More personnel, more seats

Dental clinic expands

By Spc. Justin Nieto
SETAF Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Dental Clinic-Vicenza is currently going through renovations in an effort to better serve the community here on Caserma Ederle. The renovations will allow the clinic to expand and use the second floor of their building.

"The expansion will allow the dental clinic staff to grow and better serve a growing community," said Col. Thomas Jordan, commanding officer, Vicenza Dental Clinic. "Our staff has already increased by four doctors in anticipation of the move."

According to Jordan, the dental clinic will be adding 10 new dental chairs, including all the supporting equipment, and will also increase x-ray capabilities through the addition of three new x-ray machines.

"The additional chairs will also allow the implementation of some specialty rotations from Germany," said Jordan. "The addition of personnel and specialty rotations will allow for us to better care for our folks and decrease referrals to Landstuhl. An additional dentist and dental hygienist are expected soon as well."

"The expansion will also allow the consolidation of our clinic and headquarters under one roof," said Jordan. "Our headquarters will occupy a portion of the upstairs renovation."

"The decision to expand the dental clinic was made over a year ago by an agreement reached between Major General [Jason] Kamiya, the U.S. Army Dental Command and the European Regional Dental Command," said Jordan.

The construction has been well ahead of schedule and is expected to be completed in February.

"The arrival and installation of equipment is anticipated throughout March," said Jordan. "We hope to have the renovation operational in early April."

Get your taxes filed for free Vicenza Tax Center opens

By Mark Christensen
Chief, Client Services
Staff Judge Advocate

The Vicenza Tax Center opened on Jan. 23, and since then over 200 federal and state returns have been electronically prepared and filed. Many filers are realizing large refunds, mostly due to eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit. All are reminded of the following to insure the preparation of your return is completed without delay:

First, bring all your tax documents with you when you go to the Tax Center. Many folks arrive without bank deposit information for their refund. To get a direct deposit of your refund, you must provide your bank's nine-digit routing number and your account number.

Second, be sure all your tax information is accurate. Most rejected returns are due to incorrect names or numbers. Confirm the Social Security names and numbers of all family members, including children and wives who changed names due to marriage or divorce.

If you have any of the following, your return is considered complicated: Business income or loss; Form 1099-B capital gain or loss; rental real estate income; foreign earned income or tax; or a Puerto Rico tax filing obligation. If you have any of these, you can bring all your tax documents to the Legal Assistance Office and drop them off. Your return will be completed and you will be contacted within

a few days to finalize the return.

All taxpayers who want to avoid waiting for first-come-first-served services can drop off their tax documents at any time. Be sure all your tax forms are together, and bring them to the Legal Assistance Office.

If you get a large refund each year, you might consider changing your withholdings and increase your monthly income. Some tax filers are getting over \$8,000 in refunds, representing a third of their annual income. If you reduce your withholdings on your W-4 through your myPay account, you can get and use that money each month, rather than giving the IRS an interest-free loan on your money.

The Vicenza Tax Center charges no fees, and if you are due a refund you will normally get it deposited into your account two Fridays after your return is transmitted to the IRS. If you pay someone to speed up your refund, you might pay 100 percent or more interest on what is simply a short-term loan on your refund. Carefully consider whether the fees charged are what you need, and use our free professional services.

The Vicenza Tax Center is located with the Legal Assistance and Claims Offices, in Building 241. The Tax Center is open for walk-in services Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. Appointments are available for individuals with complicated returns (those with foreign, business, rental property, and stock sale income or loss) by calling 634-7041.

Vicenza Tax Center

Located: Building 241
Open for walk-ins:
Monday-Friday
9 a.m.-noon & 1-4 p.m.
Appointments or
questions:
Call 634-7041

Living with Purpose

This is the final article in a series of devotional articles the USAG Vicenza Chaplain's Family Life Office, in partnership with deployed SETAF and 173d Airborne Brigade chaplains, has been writing based on the best-selling book, "A Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren. The intent of these articles is to offer deployed Soldiers and their family members a devotional meditation which can be used for weekly discussion and to hopefully deepen their spiritual connection during the separation.

Chaplain (Capt.) Buddy Hammil
14th Transportation Battalion

"Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." – Proverbs 19:21 (New International Version)

The Bible tells us that David "served the purpose of God in his own generation." (Acts 13:36) What a great legacy; to serve the purpose of God. Many people don't live purposefully, rather they just exist. Most people struggle with three basic life issues. They struggle with their identity, their importance and their impact. They wonder "Who am I?" "Do I matter?" "What is my place in life?" The answers to these three questions are found in God's five purposes for your life: worship, discipleship, service, mission and fellowship.

These last 40 weeks we have studied God's five purposes together. Now it is time to live on purpose. We know God's purposes for us. We know what to do, but how do we make sure we keep on track? Rick Warren suggests writing a Life Purpose Statement. A Life Purpose Statement summarizes God's purposes for your life, points the direction of your life, defines "success" for you, clarifies your roles and reflects the unique ways God created you to serve him. A Life Purpose Statement will keep God's purposes in focus:

Make worship the center of your life. Whatever is at the center of your life is your

god. How do you know when God is really at the center of your life? When God is at the center, you worship. When he's not, you worry.

Make discipleship the character of your life. Allow God to develop your character. Allow the word of God to permeate your mind and lead your life. Don't grow discouraged and give up when you stumble in your attempts at godly character. It takes a lifetime to build Christ-like character.

Make service the contribution of you life. Learn what your ministry in the church is to be. Identify your unique spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality and experiences (SHAPE). God uniquely shaped you to serve him.

Make mission the communication of your life. This is your commitment to share God's message of salvation with unbelievers. Rick Warren reminds us, "Our lives must support and validate the message we communicate."

Make fellowship the community of your life. Fellowship demonstrates your commitment to other believers. Fellowship is your connection to the family of God.

Examples of Life Purpose Statements:

- My life purpose is to worship Christ with my heart, serve him with my shape, fellowship with his family, grow like him in character, and fulfill his mission in the world so he receives glory.

- My life purpose statement is to be a member of Christ's family, a model of his character, a minister of his grace, a messenger of his word, and a magnifier of his glory.

- My goal is Christlikeness, my family is the church; my ministry is ____; my mission is ____; my motive is the glory of God.

Whether your life purpose statement is short and pithy or long and detailed, it should include God's five purposes for your life. Just the time spent working on such a statement will be worthwhile as it focuses our mind of God's purposes for us. I pray that God rewards your efforts and that your life is full of purpose, God's purpose.

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 CAC will be hosted at the Caserma Ederle Chapel on Feb. 22 and March 22 beginning at 9 a.m.

Issue: Hourly Care Closure During Italian Holidays – Why is it that the "hourly" care at the Child Development Center is closed on Italian holidays? I'm not Italian, and neither is the Child Development Center, so why is the "hourly" care closed?

Response from the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation: We apologize for the current need to close the hourly care room on Italian holidays. Twenty-nine percent of our staff currently is Italian. We are short staffed on Italian holidays and thus must move staff that would normally care for children in the hourly room to full-day rooms. We must ensure proper ratios in our rooms caring for full-time children of working parents on those days. We staff the full-day care rooms first in order to meet mission requirements.

In 2005, the hourly care room was closed for Italian holidays on Jan. 6, Easter Monday in April, Aug. 15, Sept. 8, and Dec. 8. We did not have adequate staff on those days, due to caregiver shortages in other areas. Notice was given to parents when they wanted to make a reservation. This may have been anywhere from two weeks to 24 hours advanced notice depending on the day the customer called.

When we are fully-staffed, we will open the hourly care room on Italian holidays. We attempt to give as much notice as possible when we close hourly care, and we appreciate your understanding as we fill child caregiver vacancies as quickly as possible.

Issue: Mission of the Post Library – I hope I am not re-hashing an issue that has already been addressed before; however, is it possible for you to clarify the role and purpose of the library here on post? The reason I ask is that the atmosphere of the library here completely contradicts that of every other library I have ever entered. My understanding of the purpose of a library is that it is supposed to be a quiet, peaceful place for people to study, read, and do research. However, trying to concentrate at all in this library is nearly impossible. I have tried to go there to study several times in hopes of having an undistracted, quiet atmosphere, but instead discovered that it's almost as noisy as the food court.

I understand that this post is small and that the teens need a place to hang out after school, but isn't that what the teen center is for? I feel like the library has become the social hangout and unfortunately it is now the last place I would ever consider going to study!

Response from the DMWR: The mission of the Caserma Ederle Library is to provide educational, informational, and recreational materials to all members of the military community. We appreciate your concerns regarding the atmosphere of the Library and agree with you that – during certain hours on school days – the library is often not a "quiet, peaceful place..." for study or any other purpose. The library, and in fact, many individuals in the community have recognized there has been a chronic problem regarding noise and behavior in this setting.

U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza Policy Memorandum 06-34 (Post Library Conduct) was put into effect on Sept. 19, 2005. The policy outlines what is considered "unacceptable behavior" and the consequences for violating the same. A copy of this policy is available on a bulletin board at the library and the U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza Web site. Please understand that neither the librarian nor the library staff members are employed to act in the role of library police or as children/youth/teen supervisors.

Parents who tell their children to wait at the library for several hours after school is out might consider that most children complete homework in a relatively short time. The rest of the time they are hanging out with their friends. The behavior of these groups is the crux of the noise problem.

We have also noticed frequent instances where an older sibling is nominally supervising one or two much-younger children. While this does meet the guidelines of Child Supervision Guidance from IMA-E, the older sibling is often engaged in conversation with their peers or

surfing the Internet while the younger children wander about unattended.

To this end, we have tried to be proactive – offering the use of the more soundproof conference room (when available) to groups who are socializing rather than studying; encouraging middle school and high school students to use the social venues/programs available to them i.e., the Villaggio Youth Center and the Teen Center; and finally, developing and implementing the garrison policy addressing conduct in the post library.

As mentioned above, the CYS Middle School and Teen programs are available for students in grades 6-12. School Age Services is available for children in grades 1-5. The CYS Sports program is also available for children of all ages. Chapel programs, scouting, and other volunteer organizations also offer after-school activities. Parents are encouraged to take full advantage of these programs – they are both developmentally appropriate and provide activities for children and youth versus the limited activities available in the library.

We want to point out that rude or impolite behavior in public is not just a problem of the younger members of our community. Adults who continue to surf the Internet while their children cry in the library are also distracting. Adult conversation on cell phones in the library is also a noise disturbance. Adults who gather in twos, threes, or more to discuss their personal or social interests are also distracting. Many times, children and youth learn from this behavior and will model it.

While the library will continue to work to instill the proper atmosphere in the building, we ask that the community – parents, children, and youth – help us. We do dislike having to request offenders to depart the facility and, if necessary, notify the military police. We want the library to be a quiet, safe, positive environment for all.

Soliciting on USAREUR military installations

Know who's authorized, who's not

By Gary Johnson

USAG Vicenza

Community Relations Advisor

With Soldiers returning from Afghanistan, it is important for them (as well as their families) to be aware of which life insurance, securities companies and their agents are accredited by the Department of Defense and U.S. Army, Europe, to solicit on post.

The following are the current DoD and USAREUR accredited life insurance and securities companies: Sunset Life Insurance; Employee Benefits Investment Group, Inc.; American Fidelity Life Insurance; Integrated Financial Planning Services; American National Life Insurance; Intervest International; Madison National Life Insurance; Sunset Financial Services; Midland National Life Insurance; Probit First Financial; and 5-Star Life Insurance.

Life insurance or securities companies not listed are not currently authorized to solicit U.S. forces personnel on USAREUR installations.

Authorized agents who are soliciting life insurance or securities must have, and present to the person being solicited, a USAREUR Commercial Solicitation Permit booklet (AE Form 210-70E) with a signature of an issuing official. The information inside the booklet will contain the following: agent's name, company, products authorized to sell, photograph, signature of agent and an expiration date.

Potential customers should make sure they request to see the agent's permit prior to entering into any business transactions. If the solicitor does not have a permit or refuses to show the permit, the customer should notify the local Community Affairs Officer whose duty is to protect them from unauthorized or improper solicitation.

According to Joint Regulation AE Reg. 210-70 and USAFE Reg. 211-16 (Personal Commercial Affairs), solicitors are not authorized to approach Soldiers, DoD civilians, or their family members on any installation, government-owned or government leased housing, or barracks areas unless an appointment is made.

U.S. military personnel, civilian employees, or their family members should know that the following prohibited activities are the most commonly abused:

- Solicitation in government or leased housing without an appointment, to include door to door solicitation.
- Solicitation in dayrooms, troop barracks and billets.
- Solicitation of Soldiers during duty hours.
- Solicitation or presentations to a mass or captive audience; e.g. Sergeants Time.

• Solicitation in person or via telephone without prior appointment.

• Selling of unauthorized products or services.

• Possessing or attempting to possess allotment forms.

• Replacement of an existing life insurance policy without a properly prepared comparison statement.

• Using official U. S. forces identification cards or passes to gain access to military installations to solicit.

If you experience any unauthorized solicitation, contact Gary Johnson, the Community Affairs Officer for the Vicenza military community, at 634-7262 (0444-71-7262).

In the event the Community Affairs Officer is not available, the customer should notify the military police and have the military police report it as unauthorized solicitation.

Gainey shares NCO leadership ideas with international audience

By Kathleen T. Rhem

American Forces Press Service

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa – Senior noncommissioned officers should afford their troops responsibility, authority, accountability and assistance, the U.S. military's top NCO told an international conference of sergeants major Thursday.

Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Gainey, senior enlisted advisor to Joint Chiefs Chairman Marine Gen. Peter Pace, is attending the International Warrant Officers Conference at Tempe Military Base here Feb. 6-10. South Africa and many other nations use the term "warrant officer" to describe senior NCOs, about equivalent to grades E-7 to E-9 in U.S. military services.

In a presentation to the conference's roughly 50 attendees from about 20 countries around the world, Gainey introduced what he calls "R-Ax3" – responsibility, authority, accountability and assistance.

Senior leaders, Gainey explained, must afford these to junior troops:

- Responsibility, to instill a

sense of worth, pride and accomplishment;

- Authority, to effectively carry out tasks they are responsible for;

- Accountability, for actions right and wrong; and

- Assistance, to help junior troops learn from leaders' experience and expertise.

He said such actions by leaders are vital to developing junior troops who will be tomorrow's leaders. Senior leaders must "coach, teach, mentor and train" subordinates to effectively replace the leaders in the future, Gainey said.

He also described what American military officers expect from their senior NCOs and vice versa. Officers in the U.S. military expect their senior enlisted leaders to be tactically, technically and strategically proficient; to be "professional beyond reproach"; and to be "the eyes and the ears for the commander" – the voice of servicemembers and their families, Gainey said.

Senior NCO leaders should expect several things from their commanders:

- Direct and open communication. "No one has permission to stop me from seeing General Pace," Gainey told conference attendees.

- Trust and respect. These are not a right, he said, but must be

earned through consistently professional and proficient actions.

- Freedom of movement throughout the command. "You need to tell that commander, 'Sir, I need to have freedom of moment throughout my area of responsibility. The only way I can advise you is if I see it,'" Gainey said.

He said senior U.S. NCOs are empowered in many ways. However, he added, empowerment is not about having "power," per se, but about influencing junior troops to do the right things. "We're not worried about power, but we teach our leaders to exercise influence over their subordinates," he said.


The sergeant major also introduced conferees to his concept of the "strategic corporal."

"We understand that corporals do not plan battles," he said. "But what corporals do on the battlefield can result in a strategic victory for the enemy," he said.

He pointed to incidents of prisoner abuse by U.S. troops in Iraq as an example of a situation in which the actions of even junior servicemembers constitute a strategic victory for the enemy in terms of influencing the actions of others.

See **NCO Leadership** on page 4

Aiding in redeployment



Peggy Schadler, chief of Marketing, Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, answers a question during a reintegration briefing. A team, headed by U.S. Army Europe, presented a reintegration information briefing in the Caserma Ederle Chapel Feb. 7. The briefing was aimed at families of deployed Soldiers and the civilian community. The presentation focused on educating spouses as to what stations and briefings their Soldiers must attend during the mandatory seven-day process. The briefing was broadcast on AFN and was also seen by video teleconferencing throughout Army installations in Europe. (Photo by Barbara Romano, 7th ATC Photo Lab)

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No butts about it; smoking, littering, you

By Spc. Justin Nieto
SETAF Public Affairs

You've seen the signs everywhere. "No smoking within 50 feet of this building," or just plain "No smoking." Yet you can look in almost every parking lot and see cigarette butts staring back at you.

Some smokers may not think smoking is too harmful to their health and the health of those around them, or that their discarded butt will have an impact on the environment. Raymond Hernandez, the chief of preventive medicine and community health here on Caserma Ederle, thinks differently.

"Even if you only have a handful of people doing it, it affects people around them," said Hernandez about smoking. "Second-hand smoke is still a very real, very serious consequence of smoking."

Hernandez went on to say smoking is an especially bad idea



here in Vicenza with the poor quality of the air.

"We see people that don't have any kind of respiratory illnesses, or even a history of illnesses, start developing asthma, bronchitis and pneumonia here," said Hernandez. "You add that to smoking, where you're inhaling about 4,000 toxic waste products, and it will affect your well-being. It will impair your judgment and mental capacity. It affects your running times and endurance."

According to Hernandez, if a

Soldier who smokes were to be injured on active duty and required surgery, he would most likely be fine because the Army will take care the Soldier medically. However, if the same Soldier were a civilian, there are many surgeons who would not operate on the injury because the chances of having a complication during the operation are far greater with a smoker. Increased risk equals increased liability of the surgeon.

Soldiers who smoke are not off the hook though.

A smoker's weakened respiratory system also makes anesthesia a risk as well and smokers also don't heal as well as non-smokers.

"And if you can't heal as well, than you run the risk of other infections along the way," said Hernandez. "Also, for example, when a Soldier deploys to a place like Afghanistan with the high altitude, it can be very strenuous.

"On a good day, if you're in

great physical shape and you don't smoke, you're going to have problems just breathing there for a while, so imagine if you smoked on top of all that," said Hernandez.

Then there's the issue with the left-over parts... the butts.

All one needs to do is take about 20 steps outside to see them on the ground, lying between cars and lining the curbs.

Cigarette butts account for more litter than people would think. According to Cigarettelitter.org, a non-profit organization creating awareness of cigarette litter and its dangers, cigarettes are the most littered item in the world, with many trillion butts being tossed out in a single year.

And they don't just disappear either; the butts are made with Acetate, which is a kind of plastic that will decompose very slowly. Carelessly discarded cigarettes are also thought to be the leading cause of fire-related injuries and

deaths in America alone.

Remember – littering is illegal and disposing of cigarettes is no different than disposing of other trash. The next time you see someone tossing a cigarette butt to the ground, let them know it's not just one cigarette, it's one of several trillion all around the world thrown to onto streets, playgrounds, parking lots, parks and sidewalks.

Kick the habit

The Vicenza Health Clinic will have smoking cessation classes every Tuesday at 4 p.m. for those wanting to kick their smoking habit.

No appointments or calls are needed as the class is on a walk-in basis. The class will feature information on how to quit, what methods are available and what would work best for you.

OVERSEAS VOTING:

Officials outlines voting guidelines for overseas citizens

From page 1

Generally, servicemembers' legal state of residence is what appears on their leave and earnings statement, Wiedmann said. He explained servicemembers must vote in that state unless they move and consciously change state of residence. For example, servicemembers cannot arbitrarily choose to vote in the state they are stationed in or the one they just left unless they have established residence there. A military legal office can answer questions about state of residence.

Federal Post Card Applications can be submitted by fax in many states, Wiedmann said, and some states allow ballots to be faxed. A few states are even e-mailing ballots to citizens, who print them out and mail them back, he said.

There are many ways for absentee voters to participate in elections, and the most important thing for these voters

to do is communicate with their local election office, Wiedmann said.

"When that local election official is aware that there's an individual out there, especially an individual serving forward deployed in the armed services, they will do whatever they can to get that ballot to the individual," he said.

Individuals who used the correct means to request a ballot but the ballot doesn't arrive on time can use a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot to vote, Wiedmann said. Federal Write-in Absentee Ballots are available at all military installations and U. S. embassies and allow citizens to write in their choice of candidates, he explained. These ballots will be counted just

like a regular ballot when they are received.

Voting participation is higher among military members than the general population. Wiedmann said he believes that is because they know the value of the democratic process.

"I believe that the members of the armed forces who are out there defending our nation do feel a deeper appreciation for their civic responsibility and their participation in the democratic process, because they're the ones out there defending our right to do so," he said.

Need assistance or more information

The FVAP Web site, www.fvap.gov, contains a great deal of useful information, including an updated, electronic copy of the 2006-07 Voting Assistance Guide.

Also, contact the installation voting assistance officer or the nearest U.S. embassy or consular office.

For Vicenza, the voting assistance officer is Alex Palomo, and he can be reached at 634-7145 or 634-6165 or via e-mail at Alex.Palomo@us.army.mil. In Livorno, contact Capt. Raul Rovira at 633-7018 or via e-mail at Raul.Rovira@darby.setaf.army.mil.

Voters may also contact FVAP staff directly by e-mail at vote@fvap.ncr.gov or by telephone on one of the many toll-free international phone numbers, available on the Web site. FVAP office hours are 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday.

Voting Assistance Officers

Vicenza: Alex Palomo
634-7145 or 634-6165
Alex.Palomo@us.army.mil

Livorno: Capt. Raul Rovira
633-7018
Raul.Rovira@darby.setaf.army.mil

NCO LEADERSHIP:

Gainey shares NCO leadership ideas with international audience

From page 3

Gainey also shared a favorite quote – from a grizzled Vietnam veteran sergeant major – that he said summed up the value of freedom to him: "You have never lived until you have almost died. For those who defend it, freedom has a special flavor the protected will never know."

Gainey encouraged the international senior NCOs at the conference to continually seek self-improvement and assess themselves, "Look at yourself in the mirror at the end of every day and ask: 'What have I done to positively affect someone today?'" he said.

He acknowledged his comments may not constitute exactly the right way to do things for all countries present, just the way the U.S. military does things. "You don't have to believe what I say," he said. "But you better believe that I believe every word of it."

Get Creative

Art center offers hands-on fun for youngsters, parents

Story and photos by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

Creating masks for carnival, making baskets and making lanterns are some of the Parent and Child sessions offered at the Vicenza Art Center. The two-day projects take place on two separate Saturdays from 2-3:30 p.m.

These classes offer a creative opportunity for parents to have play time with their children ages 5 to 12 years old.

The most recent class, Creating Masks for *Carnevale*, had its first phase take place on Feb. 4 where parent and child



Kelly Golden (center), Vicenza Art Center staff, answers some questions during one of the Children's Birthday Parties held at the center. Each party consists of a class where up to 10 children can create a special art project of their choice. "The children love it because they love coming away with something, and it's a good way to interact and be creative as well," said Golden.

created their masks using a clay hand building technique, according to Art Center Class Instructor Kelly Golden. During this phase, the participants learned techniques about working with clay, and in the second session they will discover ways of decorating the pieces they created.

Many class participants enjoy the activity and have become regulars at the Parent and Child classes.

"The Page family came several times. They do all kinds of stuff," said Golden, referring to some of the participants of the past session who were busy shaping their latest creations that will be ready to wear for *Carnevale*.

During the class, 9-year-old Karissa Page shaped her "cat" mask, while her mother, Tina, and her dad, Dan, worked on a "joker" and "devil" mask.

The second session of the Parent and Child pottery class is scheduled for Feb. 18, but the art center will be offering another class starting a new project at the beginning of March. The cost of the class is \$15 (per participant) and includes supplies.

Other upcoming activities at the center include the Girl Scout Craft Party Wednesday at 3 p.m.; Ceramics for Adults on Feb. 18 from 10:30-noon; Mini Scrapbooks on Feb. 24 from 10 a.m.-noon; and Intro to Picture Framing on Feb. 25 from 1-5 p.m.

Creative Birthday Parties

The center also offers the possibility to celebrate Children's Birthday Parties.

Each party consists of a class where up to ten children can create a special art project of their choice.

"The Children's Birthday Party is the favorite part of my job," continued Golden. "They [children] always surprise me with what they come up with."

The class is about one-hour long explained Golden. Then, participants may bring pizzas or birthday cakes and some stuff to play games.

"The children love it because they love coming away with something, and it's a good way to interact and be creative as well," she added.

The items that children create are ready in about a week after some steps that include drying, glazing and firing the pieces in the kiln.

During the last party at the center, 9-year-old Chelsea Leggette celebrated her birthday by painting a butterfly on her ceramic plate with her friends.

"She came to another party here, and she chose to celebrate her birthday this way because she enjoyed what she did during her friend's party," said her mother Jillian.

The cost of the Children's Birthday parties is \$70-\$90. It depends on the type of project and it includes all the materials for about 10 children.

In addition to painting ceramics, the other projects vary from ceramic glazing, decorating mirrors, creating mosaics stepping stones, woodwork bird houses and tool boxes.

Two week pre-registration is required.

For reintegrating Soldiers, programs include free studio fees and 10 percent off of custom framing.

On Thursday, a free framing class will be offered. The class is free but participants need to purchase supplies.

Also, a free Woodshop Safety class is offered on Feb 24 from 4-6 p.m.

The Vicenza Art Center is open Tuesdays-Saturdays from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Thursdays from noon-8 p.m.

For more details about all the classes and registration for parties offered at the center, call the Art Center at 634-7074.

AER expands spouse education assistance to stateside

Army Emergency Relief is expanding their Spouse Education Assistance Program to the United States. The stateside SEAP is a need based education assistance program designed to provide spouses of active duty Army Soldiers and widows of Army Soldiers who died while on active duty with financial assistance in pursuing their educational goals.

The purpose of the program is to assist spouses and widows in furthering their education to afford them increased occupational opportunities. Financial assistance is provided as a grant and is awarded based on financial need as evidenced by income, assets, family size, special financial obligations and circumstances, with the maximum amount of \$2,500 for academic year 2006/2007.

The scholarships are awarded annually for up to four academic years to attend post secondary school full time as undergraduate level students. Second undergraduate or graduate level courses are not included.

The scholarship money can be used for tuition, books, supplies and fees and will be paid by AER directly to the college or university.

Applications are available for downloading on AER's Web site, www.aerhq.org; at local AER sections; or by mail from HQ, AER. The deadline for receipt of complete applications for the upcoming academic year 2006-2007 is May 22. Mailed applications and supporting documents must be received or postmarked by May 22 or earlier to be considered on time.

Additional information on this new program may be found on AER's Web site, www.aerhq.org, within the AER officer's reference manual (education); at local AER sections (located at Army Community Services in the Davis Family Readiness Center); or by contacting HQ, AER, Diann Evans at diann@erhq.org.

Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

Exhibitions

Orchid and Home Furnishings

– In Padova, at the exhibition grounds, the Italian Society of Orchidology invites the public to visit the European Orchid Show, Feb. 17-19.

Orchids are for sale from exhibitors and vendors from Italy, Germany, United Kingdom, Taiwan, United States and more. There will also be orchid books and everything necessary for growing orchids for sale.

Open each day 9 a.m.-7 p.m., the entrance fee is 7 euro. Check out the Web site: www.eoc2006.org/home.html for more information.

Spaziocasa, spacious house, continues in the Vicenza fairgrounds until Feb. 19.

The event has more than 350 exhibitors and presents a whole range of home and garden furnishings.

There is also an area dedicated to weddings, which includes clothing, accessories and various articles.

Open Monday and Tuesday 3:30-8 p.m.; Wednesday-Friday from 3:30-10 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Entrance fee is 8 euro.

The Vicenza fairgrounds are located near the Vicenza ovest autostrada exit. For those who do not want to drive to the exhibition grounds on Sunday, the organizers provide a free bus to and from the Vicenza train station. Times can be found at www.fiera.vicenza.it.

Vicenza Dance 2006

Five dance performances will be held during the month of March at the exhibition hall of Vicenza.

A season ticket to attend all the performances is on sale now and cost 75 euro.

Tickets go on sale for individual performances Feb. 27 at a cost of 23 euro each.

The first performance is March 4 when the *Ballet Biarritz* from France will perform *Les petits riens* and *Don Juan*.

March 12 features a performance

of *Giselle* produced by the Ballet Theater of Torino, interpreted by Maximiliano Guerra and Paola Vismara.

March 14 the *Junior Balletto di Toscana* will perform *Balla la nuova gioventu'*.

March 25 sees the *Campioni della Federazione Rumena di Ginnastica Artistica* performing *Aeros*. This athletic dance exhibition is in three acts.

Finally, on April 4 the *Ballet Concierto* from Argentina will perform *Don Chisciotte*.

All performances start at 9 p.m. The season ticket or a single ticket for a performance can be purchased at the Panta Rhei Agency, 21 Via C. Cattaneo, Vicenza, open 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 3-6 p.m. For more information call 0444-320-217.

If there are any unsold tickets they will be available on the evening of the performance at the Vicenza exhibition hall from 7-9 p.m.

Carnevale in Venice & waterbus fares

Carnevale in Venice kicks off Feb. 18 and ends Feb. 28.

Just a few of the events taking place on the first day are: 3 p.m. is the historical parade, which leaves from *S. Pietro di Castello* to arrive in *San Marco* at 4:30 p.m.; also at 3 p.m. in *Campo San Polo*, *Carnevale* events and shows for children take place until 6 p.m.

Feb. 19 the historical parade starts at 11:30 a.m. from *S. Marco* going towards the *Palazzo Ducale*.

Taking place at noon, is what is considered the traditional opening of *Carnevale, Il Volo dell'Angelo*. This event is also televised.

At 4 p.m. is the historical parade, and *Carnevale* events for children are held in *Campo San Polo* from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.

For more information on *Carnevale* visit the official Web site at www.carnevale.venezia.it, in Italian and English.

Water Buses - Just in time for *Carnevale*, the prices of travel on

the water bus, *vaporetto*, have raised.

New fares are two euros for a shuttle journey across the Grand Canal and five euros for a single water bus fare. Cards for unlimited travel on the water bus system and buses in *Mestre* and *Lido*, including one item of luggage, are 12 euros for 24 hours or 25 euros for 72 hours, starting from the time the ticket is stamped.

Buy the cards at one of the *vaporetto* ticket booths or at some *tabacchi* shops or bars. Monthly passes are also available.

Free caffè

When driving on the Italian autostrada at night, the service stations, in collaboration with the Italian autostrada company, are offering a free caffè' (not cappuccino) from midnight-5 a.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays until Feb. 28 to help the driver along the way. Information about road conditions, road closures and more are available from the Web site: www.autostrade.it, in Italian only.

Market in Padova

The Padova monthly antique market will be held Feb. 19 in *Prato della Valle*.

This market has more than 200 stalls and is open from sunup to sundown.

Prato della Valle is one of the world's scenographic squares, laid out in 1775 as an elliptical island surrounded by 78 statues of illustrious men. It is flanked by the *Basilica di Santa Giustina* from the 1500s.

Hot-air balloon meet

The 5th International Hot-Air Balloon meeting takes place in the town of Carpinetti, located 37 kilometers south of *Reggio Emilia*. On Feb 18, the flight is at 3 p.m.

The flights on Feb. 19 are at 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. A ride in the hot-air balloon will cost a 100 euro per person. *Carpinetti* is 125 miles southwest of Vicenza, west of *Bologna*.

Now Showing

Caserma Ederle Theater

Feb. 14	CLOSED	
Feb. 15	Walk the Line (PG13)	7 p.m.
Feb. 16	Harry Potter & the Goblet of Fire	7 p.m.
Feb. 17	Fun with Dick & Jane (PG13)	7 p.m.
	Aeon Flux (PG13)	9:30 p.m.
Feb. 18	Fun with Dick & Jane (PG13)	4 p.m.
	Just Friends (PG13)	7 p.m.
Feb. 19	Aeon Flux (PG13)	4 p.m.
	Just Friends (PG13)	7 p.m.
Feb. 20	CLOSED	
Feb. 21	CLOSED	

Camp Darby Theater

Feb. 17	Syriana (R)	6 p.m.
Feb. 18	King Kong (PG13)	6 p.m.
Feb. 19	Yours, Mine & Ours (PG)	2 p.m.

Movie Synopsis

AEON FLUX - *Charlize Theron, Frances McDormand*. In the 25th century, a rampaging virus has forced the remnants of humanity into the seclusion of a final city. There is great political conflict within, however, and this is the story of an acrobatic assassin, Aeon Flux, whose latest target is the government's top leader.

FUN WITH DICK AND JANE - *Jim Carrey, Tea Leoni*. A wealthy couple loses their main source of income, causing both to turn to a life of crime—as they organize various heists on their rich friends' accounts.

HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE - *Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson*. In his fourth year at Hogwarts, Harry faces his greatest challenges and dangers yet. When he is selected under mysterious circumstances as a contestant in the Triwizard Tournament, Harry must compete against the best young wizards from schools all over Europe. But as he prepares, signs begin to point to the return of Lord Voldemort. Before long, Harry is playing not just for the Cup, but for his life.

JUST FRIENDS - *Ryan Reynolds, Amy Smart*. Chris is a selfish, womanizing and successful music executive. Circumstances bring him back to his home town and fate reconnects him with the "just friends" girl of his dreams. Can one escape the clutches of the "friend zone?" Is it possible to go from "just friend" to boyfriend? Chris is about to find out the hard way.

SYRIANA - *George Clooney, Matt Damon*. Robert, a 21-year veteran of the CIA, spent his entire career investigating terrorists around the globe. As the dangers of terrorism increased, he watched as the CIA's funding was cut, politics overtook judgment, and warning signs were ignored. But the struggle becomes personal when an oil executive and his wife are faced with a family tragedy.

WALK THE LINE - *Joaquin Phoenix, Reese Witherspoon*. He was a voice of rebellion that changed the face of rock and roll. An outlaw before today's rebels were born - and an icon they would never forget. And his name was Johnny Cash. WALK THE LINE explores the early years of the music legend, an artist who transcended musical boundaries to touch people around the globe. As his music changed the world, Cash's own world was rocked by the woman who became the love of his life: June Carter.

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.

Mako Sharks wrap up season with a win

Story and photos

By Tom Buffington

Special to *The Outlook*

January was a busy and rewarding month for the Vicenza Mako Sharks swim team.

First, the team scored 346 points at their meet in *Aviano*, taking first place and beating strong teams from *Aviano* and *Naples*.

Spreading swimmers out over all the events made the Mako Sharks more competitive as a team.

European qualifiers for this meet were *Trevor Canipe* (50m Breaststroke), *Jefferson Hando* (50m Backstroke), *Jonathan Higgins* (50m Butterfly), and *Taylor Higgins* (100m Backstroke and Breaststroke).

In the final home meet of the season, Vicenza hosted *Aviano* and *Naples*. The Mako Sharks took second place and everyone had great races.

Most time dropped for Girl and Boy at Vicenza went to *Sheridan McKittrick* (who drop a whopping

31.81 seconds off her time) and *Patrick McGuire* (who dropped time in all three of his events for a grand total of 14.69 seconds).

It was on to *Naples* where the Mako Sharks took another second place with 32 swimmers competing for the team.

In both meets, many swimmers stepped out of their comfort zones by adding a new event.

Most time dropped at *Naples* for Girl and Boy go to *Kelsey Roche* with a solid drop of 12.29 seconds and to *Matt Williams* who dropped time in all three events for a total of 7.04 seconds.

A total of 12 Mako Sharks did well enough to qualify for the European championships. They are: *Allie Bell*, *Ryan Boll*, *Bailey Butler*, *Bryan Febbo*, *Melissa Febbo*, *Rebecca Febbo*, *Sara Febbo*, *Jonathan Higgins*, *Meghan Higgins*, *Kyle McCann*, *Lindsey McCann*, and *Matt Williams*.

The divisional meet was held in *Sigonella* and Vicenza had 48 swimmers compete in 136 individual

events and 12 relays.

Maria McGuire (50m Freestyle), *Jonathan Bowman* (50m Freestyle), *Taylor Higgins* (200m Freestyle), *Ryan Boll* (50m Breaststroke), *John Williams* (50m Breaststroke), and *Jeff Hando* earned qualifying times for the championships.

It was a great meet and prepped the teams and individuals for the final meet of the year: European Championships in *Rimini, Italy*, Feb. 18-19.

GO Mako Sharks!

Vicenza High School

Story and photos by
Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

hosts Wrestling Sectionals



A VHS wrestler one of the Naples Wildcats in the 189 lb weight class.

A total of 64 high school wrestlers competed this Saturday in the DoDDS Southern European Sectionals held at the Vicenza Fitness Center.

Seven Vicenza Cougars competed in the sectionals, while the other students came from Naples, Sigonella, Overseas School of Rome, Aviano, Ansbach and Wuerzburg.

The wrestlers competed in 14 weight classes to determine the top two wrestlers in each class who will participate in the European Finals in Wiesbaden, Germany, this weekend.

Vicenza wrestlers who competed in the tournament were: Shane Hinton – 140 lbs; Kyle Stammer – 145 lbs; Stephen King – 152 lbs; Chris Bell and Caleb Dumlao – 171 lbs; David Sherrick – 189 lbs; and Joe Wiehe – 215 lbs.

“Even if our group does not have a big number, we make up for it because we compete with determination,” said Vicenza Assistant Coach Monte Massey. “This sport requires a lot of dedication and my guys are working hard.”

The same positive outlook about the Vicenza



Top: A Vicenza High School wrestler goes for the pin against one from Naples in the 215 lb weight class.

Above: During the match a VHS assistant coach yells directions and support from the sideline.

wrestlers comes from Assistant Coach Keith Mellon.

“I started coaching this past November,” said Mellon. “I think we have a good group of wrestlers. They give their heart and soul.”

“I hope we’ll have a bigger group next school year,” Mellon added.

“The Vicenza High School wrestling team has been very successful this year,” said Shane Hinton, VHS wrestling captain, undefeated with a record of 12-0 for the season in the 140 lb weight class.

“The team always did well individually and in team points.”

According to Hinton, who qualified to go on to the European Finals, the team managed to place third in team points in every meet.

“We were very happy to hold the sectionals at the post gym this weekend, and three members of our team will go to the tournament in Germany,” he said.

“I think I am ready to go to Europeans,” said Joe Wiehe, 215 lb weight class, after placing second in the sectionals. “Actually, I am more excited than ready. This is the first time I will compete at the European level.”



One of the seven members of the VHS Cougars team makes a move to turn a wrestler from Wuerzburg High School in the 145 lb weight class during Saturday’s qualifying tournament here.

