



The Outlook

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Reception & Reintegration information briefings offered

Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Page and his wife, Tina, smile at daughter, Karissa, during the reception held for Soldiers returning from Afghanistan Jan. 6 (Photo by Margret Menzies, USAG Vicenza Public Affairs Officer)

Families of deployed soldiers are invited to attend one of the Reception & Reintegration Information briefings offered on Jan. 24, 25 or 26, at 1 p.m. in the Caserma Ederle Chapel. Free childwatch is available, no reservation are necessary.

The purpose of the briefing is to explain the process of Soldier reception and reintegration, to include information on the different reintegration stations and the community support available to Soldiers and families. While, the briefings are focused on information family members of returning Soldiers need to know, the entire community is welcome to attend.

Talking on phone while driving on post will cost you

USAG Vicenza Directorate of Emergency Services
Press Release

Department of Defense installations have begun implementing new cell phone restrictions for drivers on military bases.

The new regulation, published in the Federal Register in April 2005, states that anyone driving a motor vehicle on a DoD installation cannot use a cell phone unless the vehicle is safely parked or the driver is using a hands-free device.

"It is already being enforced [on Caserma Ederle]," said Adeal Frater, director of Emergency Services. "It is a two point traffic violation (IAW USASETAF 190-2) if caught by an MP, and 63 Euro fine if caught by the Carabinieri."

Many installations already have

implemented the new restrictions, and the rest will implement the rules on their own schedule, said John Seibert, assistant for safety, health and fire protection for DoD. There is no deadline for installations to implement the restrictions, Seibert said, but he expects most will do so this year.

"We have not issued an implementation schedule," he said. "But it's definitely getting everyone's attention."

This regulation was developed based on information from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which studied driving distractions as the cause of motor vehicle accidents, Seibert said.

The study found that cell phone use is the fastest growing and most visible distraction that leads to accidents, he said.



Can you spot the difference between these two photos?

The driver in the top photo is talking on her cell phone while driving down Johnson Ave. In the photo below, she's parked. (Photos by Spc. Justin Nieto, SETAF Public Affairs. Bad driving habit supplied by Diana Bahr, USAG Vicenza Public Affairs)



**How snow-savvy are you?
Take the quiz on page 3 and find out!**



Sharing your life message

The USAG Vicenza Chaplain's Family Life Office, in partnership with deployed SETAF and 173d Airborne Brigade chaplains, is writing a series of devotional articles based on the best-selling book, "A Purpose Driven Life" by Rev. Rick Warren.

The intent of these articles is to offer deployed Soldiers and their family members a devotional meditation which you can use for weekly discussion and to hopefully deepen your spiritual connection during the separation.

Chaplain (Capt.) Buddy Hammil
14th Transportation Battalion

"Your lives are echoing the Master's Word... The news of your faith in God is out. We don't even have to say anything anymore – you're the message!"

1 Thessalonians 1:8 (The Message)

We have a message to share. We received this message from God. As believers in Christ, redeemed from sin and reconciled to God, we are commissioned to share the message of reconciliation.

We each have life experiences that God can use in sharing His message of reconciliation.

The Bible says, "Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony of God in them."

1 John 5:10 (God's Word Translation)

Your Life Message has four parts:

- ◆ Your *testimony*: The story of how you began a relationship with Jesus.
- ◆ Your *life lessons*: The most important lessons God has taught you.
- ◆ Your *godly passions*: The issues God shaped you to care about most.
- ◆ The *Good News*: The message of salvation.

Your Life Message includes your **testimony**. Your testimony is simply the story of how Christ has made a difference in your everyday life.

The Apostle Peter reminds us that we were chosen by God "to do His work and speak

out for Him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference He made for you." 1 Peter 2:9 (The Message)

We are to be His witnesses. In a courtroom setting, a witness is not expected to win the case. A witness is not expected to argue the case, prove the truth, or even press for a verdict; this is the attorney's job. Witnesses merely report what happened to them or what they saw. Jesus said, "You will be my witnesses," not "You will be my attorneys."

The Bible says, "Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you, but do it with gentleness and respect." 1 Peter 3:15-16 (Today's English Version).

An easy and often used outline for organizing your life message testimony is to divide it into the following main points:

1. What my life was like before I met Jesus.
2. How I realized I needed Jesus.
3. How I committed my life to Jesus.
4. The difference Jesus has made in my life.

Your Life Message includes your **life lessons**. Rev. Rick Warren tells us, "These are lessons and insights you have learned about God, relationships, problems, temptations and other aspects of life." (pg. 338)

Your life lessons can help others who are struggling with the same issues. Your life lessons can help others avoid needless pain and suffering. While it is wise to learn from experiences, it is even *wiser* to learn from the experiences of others. We don't have enough time to learn everything in life by trial and error.

We must learn from the life lessons of one another.

Rev. Warren suggests writing down the major life lessons you have learned, urging us to make a list of life lessons.

He says, "You haven't really thought about them unless you have written them down." (pg 339)

Some questions to jog your memory and get you started:

- ◆ What has God taught me from failure?

◆ What has God taught me from a lack of money?

◆ What has God taught me from pain or sorrow or depression?

◆ What has God taught me through waiting?

◆ What has God taught me through illness (mine or a loved one)?

◆ What has God taught me through disappointment?

Your Life Message includes sharing your **godly passions**. God has shaped each of us uniquely. Each of us is passionate about something. You cannot keep yourself from talking about what you care about.

The Bible says, "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks." Matthew 12:34 (New King James Version)

When I return from an exciting ski weekend, I can't shut up about all the exciting fun I had. God uses passionate people to further His kingdom. He may give you a godly passion for starting new churches, strengthening families, funding Bible translations, or teaching the Bible.

God may give you a godly passion for reaching a particular group of people with the gospel: businessmen, teenagers, foreign exchange students, young mothers, Soldiers, etc. (pg 340)

Your Life Message includes the **Good News**. What is the Good News? "For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. This is the wonderful message He has given us to tell others." 2 Corinthians 5:19 (New Living Translation)

The Good News is that Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.

By trusting in Jesus, we can be forgiven, we can have a purpose for living and we can have a future home in heaven.

Your Life Message has several components.

But remember this: God wants to say something to the world through me.

As you reflect on the personal story of your life, ask yourself, "Who does God want me to share it with?"

Survey will affect your paycheck

U.S. Army Europe
Press Release

The next Overseas Housing Allowance Utility Survey for U.S. service members assigned to U.S. Army, Europe is scheduled from Feb. 1 through March 2.

Each year, the Per Diem Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee conducts the OHA Utility Survey to collect utility and recurring maintenance expense data from service members who receive the allowance.

The committee uses this information to compute OHA allowances for service members worldwide.

The survey will be available to all service members who receive OHA and live in privately leased quarters.

The survey will be available only on the Internet this year; there will be no paper surveys.

Responses can be made on any computer.

An unfinished survey can be saved and completed later. However, the unfinished survey can only be accessed from the same computer on which it was begun.

The survey will be available beginning Feb. 1 at <https://www.perdiem.osd.mil/oha/ohasurvey>.

The survey asks service members to report their average monthly costs for utilities and routine maintenance.

Respondents should use actual utility bills or maintenance expense records to determine their monthly average.

For the Move-In Housing Allowance portion of the survey, respondents should report actual move-in expenses.

The CAC is hosted in the Caserma Ederle Chapel on the following Wednesdays: Jan. 25, Feb. 22, and March 22 starting at 9 a.m.

Check your Army Civilian Attitude, take the survey by Jan. 31

U.S. Army Civilian Personnel Office
Press Release

Army appropriated and non-appropriated fund civilian employees who have not yet completed the Army Civilian Attitude Survey still have time to complete it.

The survey is an opportunity to be heard

on issues that directly affect you as a civilian employee. The survey asks questions about leadership and management, job satisfaction, morale, training and development, and other topics.

The results of this survey provide attitudes and opinions that will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of Army programs

and initiate changes.

Participation in the survey is voluntary and responses are confidential.

The survey is available online until Jan. 31 at www.cpol.army.mil/survey/dasurvey and may be taken during normal duty hours.

If you have questions or concerns, please email ArmySurvey@questarweb.com.

Community Action Council

This forum is to discuss issues that affect 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 the following dates: Wednesday, Feb. 22, and March 22 beginning at 9 a.m.

Issue: Halloween in Villaggio is out of hand. The number of people in the neighborhood was completely overwhelming and it was impossible to "treat" them all. I saw many near riots break out as children shouted and shoved when the homes quickly ran out of candy.

There were also way too many "kids" who were certainly older than age 12.

The "not participating" signs on the front doors were ignored, perhaps because people didn't know what it meant.

Villaggio is my home and I have a great sense of security living in a gated community with controlled access. That level of comfort was completely diminished by the admission of multitudes of locals allowed into my

neighborhood.

Recommendation: I recommend that the Halloween celebration be held for Villaggio residents and our military members living off-post.

If it is an issue of not reaching out to our Italian neighbors, than let the first hour of trick-or-treating be for Americans only.

Then set a fixed number of locals that will be allowed in and let them enter for the second hour.

We also need to respect those that don't participate in Halloween.

Response from the Directorate of Emergency Services: The Vicenza community hosted an overwhelming number of visitors at this year's "open post" Trick or Treat activity without any reported acts of criminal mischief or vandalism.

The gates opened at 6 p.m. and allowed access to the visitors (who had to pass through metal detectors) and successfully closed the post at 8 p.m.

There was never a question as to the security of the post or the residents living there as on-post security was provided by the MP's, Carabinieri, Civis Guards and the Italian Army.

Medical staff and fire department personnel were on post as well. It was by police accounts an outstanding success. The Trick or Treat portion of our Halloween event has become very popular in the local community. It has never reached such enormous numbers as this year. Our security personnel should be recognized for keeping such great order.

Response from the Directorate of MWR: When creating the concept for the event, we – like the Provost Marshal – never expected so many guests during the Trick or Treat portion of the event.

We can expect that, given the popularity of Halloween, this trend will continue. Therefore, we are considering several other alternatives for next year's celebration which may eliminate the Villaggio concerns.

While our recommendations are not final, our concept might include a Halloween Carnival on Caserma Ederle for ID cardholders and host nation guests, including Trick or Treat tents sponsored by organizations, food booths, and games.

The Garrison Commander will approve and publish the final Halloween plans in Spring 2006.

Winter driving tips to help keep you safe

USA Garrison Vicenza

Safety Office

Press Release

For those of you new to driving in Europe, the good news is that basic driving skills are the same; the bad news is that driving in Italy can present some challenges not seen in the states, especially when it comes to sharing the road with bicyclists and farm vehicles.

In addition, weather changes can quickly alter road conditions and visibility. You can drive around a corner and suddenly find your vehicle skidding across invisible ice, which has accumulated in a shaded area.

Here in the Veneto Region, you can be cruising along and wonder where the scenery went – it is shrouded by thick fog.

Good drivers prepare themselves for all driving conditions that they might encounter. They keep their vehicles maintained to handle all types of weather. They learn to anticipate driving conditions by being aware of weather changes.

Here are some reminders for winning against the weather:

- ◆ When planning a trip out of the local area, check the Internet, or call the military police for highway and weather reports. You might be advised to carry chains to cross a mountain pass, or learn that a route is closed altogether.

The Italian autostrada Web site in English is: www.autostrade.it/en/index.html

- ◆ Equip your vehicle for the conditions you might drive through. Don't wait until the first snowfall to install your winter or all-season tires. It's safe to assume it is going to snow this winter, just like every winter before.

- ◆ Also switch to winter weight oil and winter coolant before freeze-up.

- ◆ Carry survival supplies in case you get stuck. Warm clothing, boots, gloves, quick energy food, matches and a candle are the minimum to carry in your vehicle in all seasons.

- ◆ Have the position of your headlights, taillights and fog lights checked. If they are too low, you won't see much; if they are too high, they can cause potentially dangerous glare for other drivers.

- ◆ Learn how your vehicle handles in rough weather conditions. Front wheel drive, rear wheel drive and all wheel

- ◆ Wet weather can cause landslides, and avalanches are common hazards in many regions in the winter and spring. Obey all warnings about avoiding these areas.

- ◆ Sometimes road and weather conditions are too extreme to drive at all. If the police tell you to stay off the road because of a blizzard, do everyone a favor and obey.

- ◆ Flood warnings are other good reasons to stay home. Every year there are tragic reports of drivers who tried to drive across flooded roads and drowned.

- ◆ Keep your cellular phone charged, or at least have coins/phone card for a pay phone.

- ◆ Pay attention constantly to the road conditions, which can vary even from one lane to the next.

- ◆ Build up your speed gradually before traveling uphill. Shift down smoothly, possibly before you start up. As you reach the top, be ready for unseen hazards such as a sudden downhill grade or a stalled vehicle.

- ◆ Use lower gears instead of brakes to travel down a steep hill.

- ◆ Avoid sudden steering movements. Be ready to steer smoothly as you approach a curve. Plan any lane changes well ahead of time.

- ◆ On icy roads, any driving maneuver can set off a skid. Braking, steering, accelerating and taking your foot off the accelerator can all result in a loss of control, carry out these moves with a light touch, being continually aware of the vehicle's response.

- ◆ Brake correctly for the type of vehicle you are driving. For some braking systems, quick, light pumping of the brakes is the way to stop on ice while maintaining steering control. Avoid locking the brakes. *Anti-lock braking systems (ABS) should not be pumped.* Check with the manufacturer for the correct operation of your braking system.

- ◆ Keep all your wheels moving to maintain control of your vehicle. Locked wheels can result in a jackknife.

- ◆ Strive to maintain traction at all times. You need positive contact with the road surface to control the direction and speed of travel. Drive moderately and gently.

Winter driving quiz

1. If your car is covered with snow, the minimum you should do before driving is:

a. Brush off the windows, clear a good peep hole on the driver's side, and let the defrosters do the rest as you drive.

b. Brush off the windows and thoroughly clear a space 30 cm (one foot) square to enable you to see out the front and back windows.

c. Clear all snow off windows, roof and hood, front and rear lights, and scrape the ice off all windows.

2. In temperatures below -4 F (-20 C) the following condition does not occur:

a. Tire chains cease to be effective for traction.

b. Sand ceases to increase traction.

c. Snow tires lose their ability to bite into snow.

3. When you get stuck on ice or hard packed snow do not:

a. Spread sand under the tires.

b. Gently rock the car back and forth

by shifting from forward gear to reverse using the brakes to hold the vehicle between shifts.

c. Apply pressure on the gas, keeping your wheels straight, and move out of the situation as quickly as possible.

4. If you don't have ABS and must stop quickly in icy or snowy conditions:

a. Apply strong, steady pressure to the brake pedal and don't let up.

b. Pump your brakes.

c. Slam your foot on the brake pedal at once.

5. If you go into a skid on ice:

a. Apply the brakes to slow yourself down.

b. Oversteer to compensate for the direction of the skid.

c. Take your foot off the accelerator and declutch or shift to neutral.

d. All of the above.

Check your answers against the correct answers at the bottom of the page.

drive vehicles each have a different "feel" to them. Learn how to correct a skid before it happens for real.

- ◆ Get use to your anti-lock brakes (ABS) before you need them in an emergency. Read the owner's manual for your vehicle, which will explain that you can hit them hard without pumping them if you need to stop suddenly.

Carrying excess baggage? What official travelers should know

by Spc. Justin Nieto

SETAF Public Affairs

Official travelers beware; airlines have varying rules regarding the number of bags allowed to be transported on a plane if you happen to travel on the government's tab.

Changes effective late in 2005 vary from airline to airline and only apply to personnel coming to and from the United States on regular and emergency leave, proceeding to a new permanent or temporary duty station or those leaving the Army for good, according to Gabriella De Boni, USAG Vicenza Installation Transportation Office staff, who works with the Sato Travel Office on Caserma Ederle.

"Baggage allowance for government tickets to [the U.S.] is two pieces of baggage, 70 pounds each, for a total 140 pounds," said De Boni. "This does not include carry-on luggage, which is limited to two bags for a total of 51 pounds. Some airlines, such as Delta and United, are not charging excess baggage if ticket is issued at government contract rate.

"Some airlines are charging \$25 for overweight on government tickets, while other airlines are charging excess baggage fees according to International Air Transport Association rules," she said.

"Passengers charged for excess baggage may claim reimbursement up to baggage allowance in accordance with Joint Federal Travel Regulations entitlement," said De Boni.

For unofficial travel, all major airways offer a maximum of two free bags for these travelers; however, the dimensions and weight can vary from airline to airline.

For example, not all airlines have a military exception – such as Lufthansa and US Airways – don't make an exception for the number of bags you may carry if you are counted as military personnel. For those airlines that do offer a military exception, the weight, the maximum overweight and the fee for crossing that limit, vary. For the most part, the military exception only allows an additional 20 pounds of weight per bag.

For further information regarding specific airlines and their guidelines for baggage, please contact the Sato Travel Office at 634-8531, or off post at 0444-71-8531.

Some airlines are charging \$25 for overweight on government tickets, while other airlines are charging excess baggage fees according to the International Air Transport Association rules.

– Gabriella De Boni
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Installation Transportation Office

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Circulation is 2,500.

Editors note: This was reprinted from the Canadian Safety Council Web site: www.safety-council.org/quiz/winterq.htm

1. c. Clean all snow and ice off all windows. Also remove loose snow from the hood and roof to prevent it from blowing up on the windshield or drifting over the back window as you drive. Don't be a peep hole driver, and ensure all windows are defrosted before starting out.

2. c. Snow tires do not lose their effectiveness at low temperatures. But remember they have limitations. As unpacked snow turns to ice and packed snow, traction is reduced. Tire chains and sand give you traction at temperatures closer to the freezing mark, but not at very low temperatures. Always approach ice or hard packed snow with care.

3. c. If you apply too much power you will just spin your wheels. Rather, use the "easy does it" approach when starting.

4. a. But stop short of locking your wheels. The best defence is to leave a greater distance between your vehicle and the one ahead of you, and to reduce your speed to decrease the wheels and produce an uncontrolled skid. However, with anti-lock brakes (ABS), c is a valid answer.

5. c. Do not put on your brakes. Follow your natural impulse and steer to keep the car going in its original direction, but don't oversteer. When you feel the car regaining traction, start to straighten your wheels. Be prepared to handle a skid in the opposite direction.

How well did you score?

Soldier helps Afghans one mouth at a time



Spc. Melonie Williams, Charlie Company, 173rd Support Battalion (Airborne), performs a dental exam on an Afghan man during a village medical outreach mission Oct. 21 in Atghar, Zabul Province. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Jacob Caldwell, CTF Bayonet Public Affairs)

From the Dental Assistant Journal Nov/Dec 2005

For one Soldier, Spc. Melonie A. Williams, being deployed proved exciting and offered her the chance to use her dental technician skills outside of a garrison environment.

No ordinary Soldier, Williams exceeded Army standards by winning a Soldier of the Month board, becoming promotable to sergeant and being accepted to Officer Candidate School. She accomplished all this while serving in Afghanistan.

Williams sent the following letter to fellow Soldiers, family members and friends. As you will read, life is less than ordinary for this extraordinary young dental Soldier.

"I hope everyone is doing well; it's been a while since I've talked to some of you. Sorry my messages have been few and far between, but it's been one crazy month for me.

In July I had three boards (military boards used for promotion and Soldier of the Quarter/Year) in a matter of 10 days. I had a Soldier of the Month board, a promotion board, and an officer candidate board.

It was all worth it in the end though. I'm Soldier of the Month for July (I have another board for Soldier of the Quarter next week) and I'm promotable now. I should get promoted sometime in October. I was also

recommended to become an officer. I'm just waiting final approval and a class date.

On top of all the boards, I just returned from an 11-day dental mission called Village Medical Outreach. The mission was a convoy to different villages around southern Afghanistan, using small Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) as a home base. It was quite the experience to say the least; far different from the everyday life that I've grown accustomed to here in quiet Kandahar.

It was the first time I've ever left the perimeter of Kandahar, and I was more than anxious to go.

Things got off to an exciting start. We arrived at our first FOB and set up camp, preparing to go to the village down the stream the next day. That night, we got rocketed. Two rockets hit about 150 meters in the mountains right above our vehicles at about 3 a.m. It was quite the wake-up call for all of us, reminding us that we are in enemy territory and that this is "real." I've never seen so many people move so fast to armored vehicles. I was also amazed at how fast our infantry/mortar guys took off, anxious to catch whoever launched the rockets. They didn't find anything or anybody.

Needless to say, it kept us on our toes for the remainder of the mission. It also affected our turnout in the village that day.

The dentist pulled out quite a few teeth. All of the patients were men, since women consider it a status symbol to have their teeth, or what's left of them. Also, their husbands wouldn't allow it.

We treated some infections and handed out toothbrushes to all the locals. I think the most interesting one we saw (medically) was leprosy.

I had a chance to talk to some of the women in the village. We were encouraged to talk to them regarding women's rights, voting and other issues. I guess they were/are heavily influenced by the Taliban, who had just been to their village two days prior to our arrival. The stories they were telling me were horrible. I couldn't imagine living a life scared. Their whole lifestyle is so different.

We ended up treating one woman who is 20 years old with five kids! She had been married since she was 10. This was very common in every village

Another woman was telling us of how the Taliban had beaten her husband, they hadn't eaten meat in over a month, and her six- and ten-year-old sons were working in their shops.

We ended up giving her some food, albeit MREs (Meals, Ready-to-Eat). For those of you who aren't familiar with them, they're the meals the Army issues when you're out in the field. You always see them in Army movies.

The remainder of the trip was very quiet compared to the beginning. We drove along a dangerous road through a mountain range

with approximately four vehicles that were blown up from IEDs (roadside bombs) within the past two weeks. I think that had to be the second scariest part of our mission.

At the last FOB we visited, the guards saw Taliban riding bikes in the distance. Our guys took off to find them, but the Taliban took off too quickly. The thing with the Taliban is they tend to do things from a distance because they don't have enough manpower or the tenacity for confrontation, hence late night rocketing and IEDs. They like to use the scare tactic. If they do get into a firefight, they lose.

We got to visit a number of FOBs to see how the other half lives. The infantry guys live without any electricity or running water and they are setting up everything from scratch. Trust me, being outside in the 120 degree heat with full battle rattle (hard hat, body armor and weapon) and not showering for three or four days at a time, you really start to appreciate all the little amenities that are available to you. That was the one thing that everyone looked forward to – a shower.

Everything else took no time getting used to. It was actually fun sleeping under the stars, talking to everyone, playing cards and listening to music, etc.

I should be able to go on more dental missions, but who knows when and how many.

Now I'm back to the daily grind trying to catch up on things. I wanted to thank everyone for their prayers, letters, packages, etc. It definitely keeps everyone's morale up knowing that everyone supports us back home.

I hope everyone is doing well. Take care."

Editor's note: This article was reprinted with permission from the American Dental Assistants Association.

Williams talks to an Afghan girl about proper dental hygiene techniques during a Village Medical Outreach Mission Oct. 21 in Atghar, Zabul Province. During their humanitarian visit to remote areas of Afghanistan, Williams and her team took advantage of the opportunity to speak with the local women and talk to them about proper dental hygiene. Among Afghani women, having teeth is a status symbol and many refuse to have teeth pulled.



Educational opportunities for all

USAG Vicenza Education Center is located in Bldg. L985, office number is 634-7698, or off post at 0444-71-7698.

Our offices are open Monday - Friday. We can be reached by e-mail address at vicenza.edcenter@us.army.mil. Visit our Web site at: www.vicenzamwr.com/edcenter.

Army Continuing Education Programs

Administration office – Room 201, 634-7698, office hours are 8 a.m.-11:45 a.m.; 1-5 p.m.: General information, clearing post, education records, collections and Education Services Officer.

Army Learning Resource Center – Room 109, 634-8926. Hours are from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-9:30 p.m.: ACCP registration, computer lab, classroom reservations, Army publications, DANTES and APT study materials, and study area.

Education Counseling – Room 209, 634-8933. Hours are 8 a.m.- noon and 1-5 p.m.: Degree planning, eArmyU assistance, distance education, Army Tuition Assistance (changes coming in April), FAST class enrollment, VA and MGIB education benefits information.

Functional Academic Skills Training (FAST) – Room 209, 634-8933. FAST class helps Soldiers who have a GT score below 110.

Soldiers are referred by the unit commander and need to see an Education Counselor to enroll.

Headstart Language Program – Room 104, 634-8930. Headstart teaches basic Italian language and culture skills. Class is 30 hours, includes a field trip and adult family members are welcome

on a space-available basis.

Testing Services – Room 213, 634-8126. Hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Services offered include DANTES and Army Personnel Testing, distance education course test proctoring available.

College Programs

Central Texas College – Located in Room 206, the telephone number is 634-6514.

CTC offers: Associate in Applied Science in Automotive Technology, Criminal Justice, Legal Assistant, Applied Management, Child Development, Food Services and Emergency Medical Technology. The Web site is www.ctc-europe.com.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University – Located in Room 206, the telephone number is 634-7570.

ERAU offers: Certificate, Associate & Bachelor degrees in Professional Aeronautics and Technical Management. Master of Aeronautical Science Management.

The Web site is www.embryriddle.edu.

University of Maryland University College – Located in Room 208, the telephone number is 634-7055.

UMUC offers: In-class and distance learning courses for Associate, Bachelor and Master degrees. The Web site is www.ed.umuc.edu.

University Of Phoenix – Located in Room 211, the telephone number is 634-8928. UoP offers: M.B.A., and M.A. in Education and Elementary Teacher Education. The Web site is www.uopxmilitary.com.

Interagency Fleet manager retires after 29 years

Story and photo by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

Gino Menegatti spent most of his career working for Americans.

He retired at the end of 2005 after working in Torri di Quartesolo as Interagency Fleet Management System (IFMS) manager since February 2003.

On Caserma Ederle he arrived almost 29 years ago when he started working as an automobile mechanic.

"Since I came to work here, I threw myself into studying and learning heart and soul," Menegatti said.

And he did not have any problem with the English language, since he spent the first 15 years of his life in Australia.

In fact, Menegatti was born in Castegnero, near Vicenza, but his parents moved to Australia when he was one year old.

He attended elementary and high school while in Melbourne before he moved back to Italy with his family.

While in Australia, Menegatti's family lived on a farm 500 km from a city in an area where people worked on tobacco plantations.

His parents worked hard there because they were planning to return to Italy while Gino was still in his teens.

And their dream became true, but, at the time it was not such a dream for him.

"Coming back to Italy was a tremendous shock," Menegatti remembered.

"The schools and the environment were completely different compared to Australia. It took a couple of years before I found my feet again."

He completed high school in Vicenza and worked downtown for a few years at the Citroen dealer.

After getting married in 1973 to Lidia, he decided to start working

on post in February 1977.

According to Menegatti, the English language learned and spoken in Australia was the prime factor for his career.

Throughout the years, he became traffic management specialist in the Directorate of Logistics where, beginning in 1992, he was responsible for all aspects of the vehicle processing center located both here in Vicenza and Livorno. At the time, the vehicles arrived in Livorno, not Germany like it does now.

Menegatti's hard work and his professional knowledge while in charge of this program contributed to his receiving a Meritorious Civilian award in 1996.

But another recognition that Menegatti is proud of is the letter he received in 1999 from Lt. Gen. Robert S. Coffey, U.S. Army Deputy Commanding General, who recognized his key role in the successful conclusion of negotiations of one of his major projects accomplished that year, when he directly contributed to the establishment of the EURO Interagency Fleet Management Center (IFMS) in Vicenza to provide safe, reliable and low cost vehicle solutions assisting customers of several agencies.

On the award citation signed by the then-22nd ASG Commander, Col. Charles Munson, reads "Mr. Menegatti's actions had a direct impact on the decision by the Commissioner of the General Services Administration (GSA) to expand IFMS operations into Italy. His professionalism and expertise in negotiations were the key to this expansion."

After being established in Vicenza at the end of 1999, the service was expanded to other locations in Italy, including Livorno, Sigonella, La Maddalena, Naples, as well as Rota in Spain.



Carla Riello, Fleet Service Representative, receives some paperwork from Gino Menegatti, Euro IFMS Fleet manager, a few days before his retirement, December 2005. Menegatti retired after working almost 29 years for the American community.

In 2003, Menegatti was also selected as the first local national associate to be a fleet management center manager.

"I have always developed a very good relationship with the American community and – throughout the so many years from 1977 up to today – I have met many friends. They come to visit me and my family and when I went to the States I had the chance to return their visit, too," Menegatti recalled.

One of his goals for the future is to go back with his wife to visit Australia again, the land where he spent his childhood, and see some of his old school friends.

But in his free time he plans to

volunteer, maybe dedicating some time to the *Protezione Civile*, or *Caritas*, Italian organizations that use volunteers to help during emergencies.

Menegatti hopes to lend support to these organizations with his English skills and to maintain his knowledge of the language at the same time.

He also feels the need to spend more time with his parents, who had such a strong influence on his future just for the fact that they went to work in another country. That way, they shaped the future career and life of their son. Without spending all those years in a foreign country, he would have never had the

chance to learn another language and work for the American community.

Menegatti lives with his wife Lidia in the Vicenza area. They have two children, Ylenia, 30, and Simone, 26.

The USAG Vicenza Quarterly Community Retirement Ceremony will be held at the Ederle Theater Jan. 31 at 4 p.m. Menegatti will be on hand and honored for his long career on post. During the event, he will receive awards for his service and dedication from Maj. Gen. David T. Zabecki, commander, SETAF Rear, and also receive recognition from the regional administrator of GSA.

2006 Winter Olympic's Torch passes Caserma Ederle on way to Torino

A Vicenza schoolgirl was one of several local children chosen to carry the torch for the 2006 Winter Olympic games to be held in Torino in February. The route of the torch took it down via Della Pace, in front of Caserma Ederle, giving community members what may be a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see this event. (Photo by Barbara Romano, Visual Information Specialist, 7th ATC) Below, staff members from the USAG Vicenza Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation was on hand to offer hot chocolate and cookies to the crowd as they left post to gather outside the front gate. (Photo by Kelli Covlin, USAG Vicenza Public Affairs Office)

The 2006 Winter Olympics begin Feb. 9 and there are still many tickets left for the various games. To check out ticket and venue availability, go to the Web site: www.torino2006.org. The Information, Tours and Registration office is offering two trips to Torino – one on Feb. 19, and another on Feb. 25. The trip includes transportation, a city guide and escort assistance. It does not offer entrance to any of the venues. Contact ITR at 634-7094 for details about this, or other upcoming trips.



Wounded Sky Soldier honored



Cpl. Tyler Wilson, C Company 2-503rd, was presented the Army Commendation Medal with Valor, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Global War on Terrorism, Expeditionary and Afghanistan Campaign Medals by Col. Robert Algermissen during a Dec. 22, 2005 awards ceremony. Wilson was injured last May while in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Army photo)

Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

Exhibitions

Padova - The 5th Auto Tuning Show takes place Jan. 27, 28, and 29 in the city's exhibition grounds.

Last year 22,000 visitors enjoyed the 170 cars on show and the 70 companies present with accessories for the car and the driver. This year, the number of visitors is expected to increase.

This year, the star of the show will be the 4-wheel-drive and the SUV.

Outside the exhibition grounds there will be go-kart races and stunt car exhibitions.

The show is open everyday from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Entrance fee is 12 Euro.

Verona - *Viva la Casa* is an exhibition of home furnishings, accessories and wedding articles; includes sections of contemporary furniture and design.

The show takes place at the Verona exhibition grounds through Jan. 29.

Last year this exhibition was visited by more than 40,000 individuals.

It's open weekdays from 4-10 p.m., entrance fee of 4 Euro; weekend hours are 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and entrance fee is 7 Euro. Children under age 12 get in free.

Women get in free on Wednesday and Friday.

The exhibition grounds are located near the Verona south autostrada exit.

Films in English

The following films will be shown in their original language at the Odeon cinema in downtown Vicenza:

Jan. 30: *Oliver Twist*
Feb. 6: *The Brothers Grimm*
Feb. 13: *The Chronicles of Narnia*
Feb. 20: *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*
Feb. 27: *Memoirs of a Geisha*
Show times are 4, 6, 8 and 10 p.m. and the entrance fee is 6 Euro.

Air & Space Museum

In the Castle of San Pelagio located in the town of **Due Carrare**, province of Padova, find *The Museo dell'Aria e dello Spazio*, Air and

Space Museum.

In this XIV century castle, visitors can see a history of human flight, from its origins to nowadays, organized in about 40 rooms and in the surrounding park.

The museum houses ancient photographs, scale models, parts of airplanes, uniforms and relics, some very rare, while in the park one can see some airplanes dating to different epochs.

A note of interest about the castle is that during WWI, Gabriele D'Annunzio and his 'Serenissima' squadron lodged there.

Open during the month of Jan. and Feb. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Entrance fees are 7 Euro for adults, and 6 Euro for children ages 5-15.

In the castle also find a cafeteria, restaurant and bookshop. Full information, in English is on the Web site: www.museodellaria.it.

Arts and Crafts fair

The Fiera di Sant'Orso Arts and Crafts Fair in the city of **Aosta**, held Jan. 30 and 31, is reckoned to be one of the most important street markets in the region.

You'll compete with thousands of buyers - and almost as many vendors - for beautifully-crafted objects in wood, wrought iron, lace, straw, wicker, household objects, wooden ladders, barrels, hand-woven fabrics, and more.

The fair is also an occasion for music, folklore and tasting the wine and food that is traditional to the area. Each evening there is a night of musical entertainment in the illuminated streets, which brings crowds of people there until dawn.

Also, don't find it surprising if someone offers you a strange mug with many spouts full of steaming liquid, it the local *coppa dell'amicizia*, cup of friendship, a spicy coffee drink that is traditionally passed among friends.

If going by car you will have to park on the out-skirts of the city, but a free bus is provided to and from the center of the city, the bus also stops at the train station.

The town of Aosta is located 240 miles west of Vicenza, north of Torino, near the border with Switzerland.

Snowshoe tour

A guided excursion with snowshoes is planned for Jan. 29 in **Tonezza del Cimone**, the meeting point is in front of the church of the town at 9 a.m. with an expected return of 3 p.m.

The tour has been classed as 'media difficoltà' and will take you past Mount Melegnon, following a scenic route until you reach Mount Campomolon, where on the summit you will see the remains of an Italian fort dating from WWI.

The route back will be through fields and woods covered with snow.

Rules: there must be at least five people in a group; reservations are mandatory by the day before the tour.

The cost is 8 Euro and there is the possibility to rent snowshoes.

Call 360-975-597 or 338-159-2490 for information or reservations.

Tonezza del Cimone is 34 miles northwest of Vicenza, north of Schio.

Agricultural fair

The *Fiera Agricola di San Biagio* to be held in **Bovolone**, province of Verona, has, believe it or not, been taking place annually since 1278.

Primarily designed for agricultural professionals who are interested in new machinery and methods, it also caters to the tourists, as about 50,000 people attend each year.

There are folk displays of historic peasant costumes used for farming tobacco, and a market for furniture, both antiques and contemporary. An array of food and wine stalls sell delicious local specialties including Grand Padano cheeses, salamis and Veneto wines.

The fair runs Jan. 28-31 and is open each day sunup to sundown. Bovolone is 60 km southwest from Vicenza.

Now Showing

Caserna Ederle Theater

Jan. 17	CLOSED	
Jan. 18	North Country (R)	7 p.m.
Jan. 19	Doom (R)	7 p.m.
Jan. 20	Yours, Mine & Ours (PG13)	7 p.m.
	Prime (PG13)	9:30 p.m.
Jan. 21	Yours, Mine & Ours (PG13)	4 p.m.
	Prime (PG13)	7 p.m.
	The Weatherman (R)	9:30 p.m.
Jan. 22	Dreamer (PG)	4 p.m.
	The Weatherman (R)	7 p.m.
Jan. 23	CLOSED	
Jan. 24	CLOSED	

Camp Darby Theater

Jan. 20	Get Rich or Die Tryin' (R)	6 p.m.
Jan. 21	Walk the Line (PG13)	6 p.m.
Jan. 22	Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (PG13)	2 p.m.

Movie Synopsis

DOOM - *Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Karl Urban*. Something has gone wrong at a remote scientific research station on Mars. All research has ceased. Communication has failed. A legion of nightmarish creatures of unknown origin lurks behind every wall and stalks the countless rooms and tunnels of the facility, killing what few people remain. Sealing off the portal to Earth, Sarge, Reaper and their team must use every weapon at their disposal - and some they find along the way - to carry out their orders: nothing gets out alive.

NORTH COUNTRY - *Charlize Theron, Frances McDormand*. True story centered on Lori Jenson, who took a job at a Minnesota iron mine in 1975. She and other female miners endured harassment from male co-workers, ranging from verbal taunts to pornographic graffiti and worse. Jenson eventually filed suit in 1984 and won a landmark legal decision.

PRIME - *Meryl Streep, Uma Thurman*. Rafi is a recently divorced 37-year-old career woman from Manhattan and Dave is a talented 23-year-old painter from Brooklyn who falls in love with her. Part counselor, part Jewish mother, Rafi's therapist Lisa is gingerly helping Rafi out of her post-divorce slump and through the urgent alarm of her ticking biological clock. Although doubtful that Rafi's new fling is an appropriate partner in the long term, Lisa encourages her patient to enjoy it and have fun. But once Lisa accidentally discovers that Rafi's new boyfriend is, in fact, her son, Dave, she finds it increasingly difficult to act the good therapist while hearing intimate details of her son's love life.

THE WEATHER MAN - *Nicolas Cage, Michael Caine*. Popular Chicago weatherman, Dave Spritz, has a shot at the big time when a national morning television show calls him for an audition. Professionally, Dave is on the top of the world, but his personal life is in complete disarray. Dave's painful divorce, his dad's illness and trouble with his kids have him poised on the knife's edge between stability and disaster. The harder he tries to control events, the more he finds life, like the weather, is completely unpredictable.

YOURS, MINE AND OURS - *Dennis Quaid, Rene Russo*. A widow and widower fall in love and get married, but the resulting combined eighteen children make for a hair-raising situation under one roof.

GET RICH OR DIE TRYIN' - *50 Cent, Joy Bryant*. An orphaned street kid (Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson) makes his mark in the drug trade, but finally dares to leave the violence of his former life behind to pursue a promising career in the music business as a rapper.

WALK THE LINE - *Joaquin Phoenix, Reese Witherspoon*. He picked cotton, sold door to door, and served in the Air Force. 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. He did all this before turning 30. 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.

AAFES changes operating hours

The hours below will run through Feb. 23, after that, some facilities will extend their hours to better service our customers:

- Post Exchange: Mon-Sat: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sundays from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Shoppette : Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Villaggio Shoppette: Sun-Sat: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Car Care Center : Mon-Fri: 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. , Sat: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun: Closed
- Military Clothing Sales: Mon-Fri: 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Sat: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Sun: Closed
- Subway: Daily from 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
- Burger King: Mon-Fri: 6:30 a.m. - 10 p.m., Sat: 7 a.m. - 10 p.m., Sun: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- Popeye's: Mon-Fri: 7:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sat: 10:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sun: 10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Taco Bell: Mon-Sat: 10:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sun: 10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Anthony's Pizza: Mon-Sat: 10:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sun: 10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Charley's Steakery: Mon-Sat: 10:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sun: 10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Cinnabon: Mon-Fri: 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat-Sun: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Baskin-Robbins: Daily from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Barbershop (PX): Mon-Sat: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sun: Closed
- Beauty Shop (PX mall): Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun: Closed
- One Hour Photo: Mon-Fri: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat: 10 a.m.- 5 p.m., Sun: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Gift Shop: Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- New Gold Shop: Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Optical Shop: Mon-Sat: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun: Noon - 4 p.m.
- Laundry/Dry Cleaning: Mon-Sat: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun: Closed
- Family Hair Care: Mon-Wed: 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Thurs: Closed, Fri-Sat: 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun: Noon - 6 p.m.
- Cell Phone Shop: Mon-Sat: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sun: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Flower Shop: Mon-Sat: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sun: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Tailor Shop: Mon-Fri: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun: Closed
- Europcar: Mon-Fri: 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., Sun: Closed

Donations for local animal shelter

Are you an animal lover? Have you ever wanted to help abused and abandoned animals in some way, but never knew how? Here is your chance to contribute to a local animal shelter in Marola. A collection is being taken of old blankets and linens, wool sweaters/garments, cat and dog food, plastic gloves, bleach/disinfectant, trash bags, and paper towels.

Please call Gisella at 0444-718833 or Carol Kabonick at 0444-717072 for a drop-off point. Thanks in advance from your local furry friends.

Students team up to welcome home troops

Story and photos by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

Ashley Nash-Cook, a seventh-grader in George Hanby's class, decided that she wanted to do her part in the community to support the return of the troops.

"It took about a week to coordinate this project, first with Mr. Hanby and then with the second grade classes' teachers," said Nash-Cook.

Ashley thought that it would be great for the seventh graders and the second graders to get together show the Soldiers that they do support them.

They wanted to do their part in the community to welcome the Soldiers back. They got together with second graders teachers, Dondra Cook and Melissa Driscoll, and came up with a plan to make this happen.

"They wanted to do their part in the community to welcome the Soldiers back," said Dondra Cook. "They are making a welcome home quilt and welcome banners. The seventh and second graders will be working together as a team to make this happen. The second graders thought it would

be fun to have students from the middle school help them to turn their thoughts into finished products," she continued.

"My mom is Afghanistan and I miss her, so I'm glad that the big kids came to help us to make them happy," said Arianna Nesmith, second grade, after the first day.

And another second grader, Perrice Ledbetter added, "I feel very good about the posters, I think they are going to like them."

According to Cook, there are many changes and lots of preparation that is going on to welcome our Soldiers home.

"There is also a lot of excitement and anticipation throughout our community. The second grade students thought it would be fun to have students from the middle school help them to turn their thoughts into finished products," Cook continued.

"It was fun to have the seventh graders be nice to us and help make posters for our parents," said Samantha Martinez, second grade.

Also a common feeling that the children express is how they "want all the moms and dads in the Army to see the posters that we made," said Levi Ayala, 2nd grader.



Above: Students work together on the Welcome Home project in Melissa Driscoll's classroom in Vicenza Elementary School.

Left: A middle school student helps a 2nd grader with a Welcome Home project started at Vicenza Elementary School Jan. 20.



Field trip explains science of water



As part of their Chemistry Applications class, students at Vicenza High School have been studying the effects of dissolved substances in water. To better understand this application, VHS teachers Amy Ney and Myreta Davis took their class to the AAFES Culligan Water Plant. The visit gave them first hand knowledge on the chemistry principles discussed in class. The plant manager, Rafael Cano hosted the visit and demonstrated to the students the water purification process, what quality checks are performed on the water and showed them the bottle washer in action. "We check the incoming water at the quality control point then compare it to

the water after it goes through the water purification process to ensure we have gotten rid of 95 percent of dissolved organic solids in the water," explained Cano.

"The water holding point is necessary because of two steps," he said to the class. "First is because the final disinfection step the water goes through is ozonation — which kills any bacteria that may still be in the bottle after washing. Ozone at high levels can be dangerous but it dissipates after 24 hours.

"The second reason is that we incubate a sample of water to check for e-coli and, after 24 hours, we verify that it is okay for this check," he said.