



THE Outlook

July 19, 2005

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Overseas basing changes mean less troop stress

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press Service

The plan to relocate troops from overseas bases back to the United States as part of the Defense Department's Global Defense Posture Realignment will mean less stress on military people and their families, DoD officials told a Senate Appropriations subcommittee here June 28.

"Changing the way in which we posture our forces was driven in large part by the president's and secretary's desire to relieve stress on our military forces and their families by providing more stability at home, with fewer overseas move and less disruptions," said Ryan Henry, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for policy before the Senate Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee. "Posture changes will help reduce double separations – those caused when accompanying dependents are separated from both their servicemember and their loved ones in the U.S."

The Global Defense Posture Realignment is an initiative President Bush announced in August 2004 to station and deploy troops from bases within the United States, while lessening the country's footprint in other nations.

The 10-year plan calls for returning up to 70,000 troops and 100,000 family

members and civilian employees currently based overseas to the United States.

Already, the Pentagon plans to move Army units from Korea and Germany to Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Riley, Kan.; and Fort Bliss, Texas, beginning in 2006.

Some senators expressed concerns about where units will be placed upon their return, and what affect thousands of troops will have on local communities, transportation, housing and schools.

Philip Grone, deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment, told the panel DoD has studied those issues, consulting with state and local governments and school districts that might be affected.

"Certainly with regard to housing, our preference is to rely – as is our standard housing policy – on the community first," he said.

"Based on what we know, particularly for the three locations where we have the bulk of the forces returning from abroad – Fort Carson, Fort Riley and Fort Bliss – and based on our existing housing privatization efforts at all three of those locations, we believe that there is sufficient market availability there to accommodate returning forces," Grone told the senators.

On the issue of schools, Grone said the department has been "intensely engaged" in consultations with school systems to ensure those facilities won't be adversely affected

by the influx of new students. He said the department would continue those consultations through the summer, "So that when we get to the school year '06 next year, we'll be as integrated as we can be."

Where various units will be stationed upon return, Grone said, was determined by the unit, location and time. In the meantime, he said, there will be a mix of "permanent or temporary bases," adding that facilities will be made available in a phased plan over a "four-to five-year period." "We are working particularly with the Army on standardizing our facilities design so that they can be site-adapted at any location; to use commercial construction standards – all of which is designed to make permanent facilities more quickly and more readily available to returning forces," Grone said.

He also noted that depending on the unit, temporary billeting for single enlisted personnel may be required.

Though DoD plans "to move out aggressively to provide permanent facilities as quickly as we can," Grone said, he added that the department needs full authorization and appropriation of its budget requests from Congress.

"So if we have the resources available, we can certainly accelerate," he said. "And we'll move out as expeditiously as you desire to ensure that we have facilities in place for our people."

Top Army sergeant outlines transformation, promotes new uniform

By Sgt. Sara Wood
American Forces Press Service

In addition to making the Army a more sleek, deployable force, transformation will add predictability and stability to the lives of soldiers and their families, the Army's top noncommissioned officer said in an interview with the Pentagon Channel.

The Army has three primary initiatives in the transformation process, all of which aim to increase the number of deployable units and take pressure off soldiers and family members who have had to deal with back-to-back deployments, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston said in a recent interview.

"We can talk about being more expeditionary — being able to get to the fight quicker; we can talk about being more relevant and ready as a force; we can talk about being modular; but a lot of that doesn't mean a lot to the private first class, the specialist, the sergeant, the spouse of a staff sergeant," Preston said. "What transformation's going to do for them is give them predictability and stability."

The first initiative the Army is working on is restructuring divisions by adding brigade combat teams, Preston said. There were 33 BCTs at the start of 2004, and the goal is to have 43 by the end of 2006, he said. Last year, brigades were added to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Ky.; the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, N.Y.; and the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Ga. Three more BCTs will be added in 2005 and four in 2006, Preston said.

The second transformation initiative is increasing the number of low-density, high-demand career fields, such as military police and psychological operations, which traditionally have fewer soldiers than other

units and are needed more often for deployments, Preston said. In the next two to three years, 100,000 to 115,000 soldiers in the active Army, National Guard and Army Reserve will be taken out of high-density, low-demand units and put into the high-demand units, he said. The intent of this initiative is to rebalance the force and reduce the number of deployments soldiers in high-demand units are serving.

"Also, the goal is to keep units that have been deployed for one year at their home station for two years before deploying again."

***—Kenneth O. Preston
Sergeant Major of the Army***

The third initiative is to increase the active-duty force by 30,000 soldiers, Preston said. Within the last year, the Army has gained the authority to increase its force, and that will be done through recruiting and retention efforts.

"Our goal is to get there as quick as we can," Preston said.

Soldiers in the BCTs and their families will have even more stability in their lives through the "life-cycle management system," Preston said. As new brigades are formed, they will be put into a system that will keep them together for three years. All the soldiers will stay in that unit for the full three-year cycle and will be encouraged to stay for another cycle after that, Preston said.

"The goal is to have soldiers spend five

to seven years in one place," he said. "But the possibilities are there for even more time."

The new life-cycle system will allow military spouses to be more stabilized in their careers and will give military children the opportunity to be competitive for college scholarships, Preston said. Also, the goal is to keep units that have been deployed for one year at their home station for two years before deploying again, he said.

Improving quality of life while getting the mission done is what transformation is all about, Preston said, and the high retention rates the Army has been enjoying are proof of good morale and strong leadership. Going into its second deployment to Iraq, the 3rd Infantry Division had a 200 percent retention rate, and National Guard retention is higher than it's ever been, Preston said. This success can be attributed to a few different things, such as command climate and soldiers' belief in the mission in Iraq, he said.

"It's a real-world mission," he said. "Soldiers believe in what they're doing, and they can really see that they are making a difference over there."

Preston also discussed the new Army combat uniform, which he was sporting for the interview. Stryker Brigade soldiers wore the new uniform throughout the fielding and testing of the Stryker vehicle at Fort Lewis, Wash., and during the brigade's yearlong deployment to Iraq. The feedback received from these soldiers helped drive the evolution of the uniform and has reinforced the value of it, Preston said.

"Everybody likes it," he said. "It adds to the effectiveness of the soldier and what they're able to do out there on the ground."

The new uniform was designed by soldiers for soldiers, Preston said, and is

IACS is coming

Office of the Provost Marshal
Press Release

The 22nd Area Support Group is currently registering DoD ID cards into the Installation Access Control System. The IACS office is also issuing USAREUR and USAFE installation passes for non-American employees who may require access onto installations in Germany.

USAREUR/USAFE installation passes for non-American employees will be issued on a voluntary basis using AE Form 190-16A, dated March 2005.

DoD ID card holders will be registered at the Golden Lion Bldg 311, and non-American employees will be registered at the IAC office located in Bldg 4b. DoD ID card holders need to bring their current ID card. Soldiers and civilians who possess the first generation Common Access Card should check to see if the bar code on the back of their card is legible. If it cannot be scanned, the cardholder will have to get a new card made before registering in IACS.

The new CAC card is laminated on back and front. Installation pass holders will need their current pass and authorization from their sponsoring organization to register on a voluntary basis only. Access for retirees, former military members and others with some connection to the Army will be handled on a case-by-case basis at the IAC office. The summer months will see a transition period which there will be hands on checks, access rosters, and sign-in procedures continued along with IACS controlled access.

The changeover date to IACS-only entry is expected to be about Aug. 15. For more information regarding IACS contact Laurel Lang at 634-8807 or Staff Sgt. Robert Word at 634-8521.

geared toward combat operations. The uniform was designed to be worn under body armor, and the camouflage pattern works on all types of terrain, especially in urban environments, he said. The Velcro patches and name tags were inspired by Special Forces and reconnaissance teams, whose mission requires soldiers to remove identifying features from their uniforms, but the design has a much more practical benefit for all soldiers, Preston said.

"When a soldier goes home at night, he can take the patches and name tags off his uniform and put them on a clean uniform," he said. "And now all the money that they would've spent sewing all that stuff on their uniform goes back into their wallet."

Another money-saving feature of the ACU is the wrinkle-free treatment on the material, Preston said. This eliminates the need for soldiers to send their uniforms to the dry cleaners, which ultimately saves them money.

The Army's new uniform is just another piece of the overall transformation the Army is making to better accomplish its mission in the changing landscape. Preston said he is more proud than ever to be wearing the uniform of the armed forces and he wants soldiers to be proud of the job they do.

"They're doing a magnificent job out there in the global war on terror and they represent Americans very well every day. They make us proud every day," he said.

Thanks for your support



Maj. Gen. Jason Kamiya and Command Sgt. Maj. Iuniasolua Savusa, Combined Joint Task Force-76 commander and command sergeant major respectively, display the plaques they received for their support to families and Soldiers during OEF VI. The plaques were presented at Bagram Airbase July 10 by Col. Donald Drummer, 22nd Area Support Group commander during his visit to Afghanistan. Drummer and his staff toured the airbase and several Forward Operating Bases to see how the Soldiers are and living and working. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Massey, Combat Camera)

Ethics, sexual assault prevention training set

All civilian and military members are required to be trained on ethics and on sexual assault prevention this calendar year.

Directors and unit commanders may reserve training for your members, by contacting Jessica Delgado Western at 634-7717 or via e-mail at jessica.delgadowestern@setaf.army.mil.

Directors and unit commanders will be required to maintain a training roster of

all staff, stating the name and the date trained, for submission to higher headquarters.

Training will be held in the Ederle Theater on the following dates: Aug. 4, Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3 and Dec. 1 (final session).

On all dates Ethics training is held from 9:30-10:30 a.m., and Sexual Assault Prevention is taught from 10:45-11:45 a.m.

Developing your friendship with God

The 22nd Area Support Group 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 Pastor Rick Warren.

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

Chaplain (Maj.) James Sheil
Caserma Ederle Catholic Pastor

I am as close to God as I choose to be.

In one sense this is correct, but there is more. With God there always is more.

Our Judeo-Christian tradition tells us that, from the very beginning of time, God has been reaching out to each one of us. It is up to us how we choose to respond to him.

It is not so much a question of us finding God, as it is of becoming aware that God is closer to us than any other person, place, or experience.

In the most disturbing experiences of our life God is deep within us, waiting for us to let him love us.

In the heat of a firefight, in the loneliness and fear of a patrol, in the

frustration of being away from those we love, we learn we are not alone.

Throughout our tradition it seems that for us to make room for God involves letting go of so much we hold on to because we think it is important.

The most difficult to let go of are our demands and expectations of how we think God ought to be God.

When we can begin to cooperate with grace and let these begin to fall away, we are in for a very challenging journey.

An exciting facet of this journey is that the people in our life who are most important to us become even more important and precious because we are coming to know them as gifts of God who loves both them and us intensely.

We soon learn God is not apart from us, but deep within us in that quiet place where we are who we really are, without any false fronts, reputations, fears, or desires.

When we let ourselves be led to this place, we enter into true peace – that no person or thing can take from us.

As Soldiers we need to know a place like this, and our place is deep within each of us.

Perhaps it is not so much being close to God as being open to God, and letting God be God as God chooses to be God.

When we try to explain God, we are trying to fit God into our own ways of thinking and seeing.

Maybe we can choose to accept God and go wherever this takes us.

Friday is deadline for 'Military Idol' contest

Performers have until July 22 to sign up for the 'Military Idol' competition that begins Aug. 1 and runs through Sept. 30.

Eligible contestants must be on active duty military status assigned to the local hosting installation, including members of all branches of service assigned on

the installation. Active duty soldiers not assigned to the installation where they will compete also are eligible, but they must provide their own transportation. Only vocalists need apply.

Complete rules of the contest are available at www.armymwr.com/portal/recreation/promotions/#idol.

Community

Action Council

This forum is to discuss issues that affect the community.

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

This link provides you the opportunity to review issues that have been previously submitted and responded to by post agencies. There is also a form available for you to submit any new issue you would like addressed. If you have questions, call 634-5222 or 0444-71-5222 from off post.

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

Childcare is offered during the CAC at \$2.50 per hour, per child for children ages 6 weeks through kindergarten from 8:45-11:15 a.m. Preregistration is required. Children will be cared for in the Child Development Center, Building 395. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services Central Registration.

Call 634-7219 or stop by their new location in Davis Family Readiness Center.

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

Issue: I would like to address the reason that the Caserma Ederle agencies (whom deal with American cash transactions) do not give back the exact change to their customers.

Yesterday I was at the commissary and

paid with American money. To my surprise - the cashier handed me \$9 change - when my receipt clearly said that my change should be \$9.03. There was no mention as to where the three cents went.

This has also happened to me at the AAFES food court and other establishments on post.

I know we're only talking about pennies - but I still think it's wrong that we should get short changed by any government facility.

After a three-year tour here those pennies can add up!

Response from Defense Commissary Agency: First of all, this is a Military Services policy, not a DeCA initiative, which DeCA Europe complies with and incorporates into our operational policy. This was also the case prior to the consolidation of the services separate commissary Agencies into DeCA.

At some point in the mid-1970s someone submitted a suggestion that the U.S. military overseas would save money by limiting the use of pennies in all of its commercial activities.

This was based on the fact that shipping pennies from the states to Europe cost the U.S. government more than the dollar value of the pennies, themselves. It would simply be cost effective to limit penny usage.

The suggestion was adopted, and the use of pennies was limited starting sometime in the mid-to-late 1970s. At the time the Army and the Air Force commands adopted the suggestion, the Navy continued to use pennies. Whether the Navy was aware of the suggestion or not, it is not known today.

The limitation on the use of pennies is permanent. When DeCA became operational at the beginning of FY92, it learned that Navy commissaries were still using pennies.

DeCA as well as other commercial and MWR activities were being charged \$136 for the shipment of \$100 worth of pennies to Europe. The Services policy applied since the 1970s was expanded to Navy locations.

Today, per the Services policy, DeCA, as well as other activities such as the exchange, bookstore, food outlets, etc., limit the use of pennies.

That is not to say, though, they are entirely eliminated. Every commissary patron may give pennies as part of paying for his or her groceries. Pennies are just not handed back as change. The patron may also write a check for the exact amount to the penny.

Instead of giving the patron change in pennies, cashiers round up or down to the nearest nickel.

For example, if the total sale is \$25.36 or \$25.37, then round down to \$25.35.

If the total sale is \$25.38 or \$25.39, round up to \$25.40. Guidance is in writing as part of DECA Europe's policies.

Exceptions to this practice are financial institutions such as military finance offices, community banks and credit unions, as well as post offices. These organizations fully use pennies, as they are to balance their books to the penny at the end of each day.

Response from AAFES: Thank you for giving us the opportunity to clarify the

policy of not keeping pennies in circulation within our overseas facilities.

AAFES relies on the Department of Defense to fill most of our transportation needs, which includes shipping us the coinage we need to keep our facilities running. However, the DoD has determined that pennies are too heavy and are not cost effective to ship.

Rounding to the nearest nickel has been used in American military communities overseas since 1980. Our "round-up, round-down" policy applies only to cash purchases.

If the last digit of the total purchase ends in three, four, six, or seven, your purchase will be rounded to the nearest nickel.

If the last digit of the total purchase ends in one, two, eight or nine, your total purchase will be rounded to the nearest dime.

This is a break-even policy we believe is fair and equitable.

In closing, we remind the community that AAFES is a "nonappropriated fund" activity.

We operate almost entirely on money earned from the sale of goods and services - not tax dollars.

We must establish our prices to cover operating expenses such as inventory costs, employee salaries, utilities, plus new construction and renovations of existing facilities.

At the same time, we have a financial commitment to support the morale, welfare and recreational (MWR) activities of the Army and the Air Force (i.e., libraries, bowling alleys, gyms, golf courses and more).

In FY 2003, AAFES paid 229.7 million to the MWR funds. Every cent we earn goes back to our customers in one form or another.

Safety Countermeasure

Amnesty program ensures safety for Soldiers, civilians

By Jim Adams
22nd Area Support Group
Safety Officer
Press Release

The Amnesty Program is an essential part of the overall Installation Safety Program and is intended to ensure maximum recovery of military munitions that have been found or misappropriated during military operations and to prevent unnecessary injury to all personnel.

This amnesty program is conducted on a no-questions-asked basis to provide an opportunity for individuals to return items without fear of reprisal or prosecution. The goal is recovery of these items, preventing unauthorized use and/or needless injuries.

In accordance with USAREUR Regulation 385-64, all personnel will be briefed on amnesty policy and procedures before each training event or exercise that requires the use of

ammunition or explosives.

Additionally, briefings must be conducted after each training event to ensure personnel conduct an individual search of their pockets and equipment to prevent an intentional or inadvertent misappropriation.

Personnel will be asked to notify the controlling unit when items have been deposited but this is not mandatory.

Four amnesty containers are located throughout Caserma Ederle to support the amnesty program. Signs are posted near the containers that provide information to individuals depositing items as appropriate. Containers can be found:

- In front of the Multi-purpose Indoor Range
- Next to the 508th Infantry Brigade motor pool entrance
- Next to the D-Battery, 319th AFAR motor pool entrance (North Forty annex)
- Near the entrance to the Military Police/Office of the Provost Marshal.



Delegate authority for Self-Help items

By Nick White
Housing Programs manager
Special to the Outlook

Do you wish it was easier to get items from Self-Help, because you

are busy with the children, volunteering, work and family? Now it is!

The 22nd Area Support Group Housing Division has produced a Delegation of Authority form that allows sponsors to authorize responsible family members to check out items from Self-Help on the sponsor's behalf.

There are only a few restrictions. The designated family member must be 14 years of age or older, and the appointment will remain in effect no later than the sponsor's current DEROS.

Upon request, the length of the appointment can be set for a shorter time period.

Additionally, the delegation may be for any Self-Help item that the sponsor is authorized, or it may be restricted to specific items selected by the sponsor.

The sponsor maintains full liability for any items checked out under this authority, which is why sponsors who wish to delegate authority must actively appoint a responsible family member.

The forms are available at the Self-Help Center on Villaggio, which is also where they should be left upon completion.

For more information about the forms, or for what is available through the Self-Help store, call Self-Help at 634-7284, off post at 0444-71-7284.

Hard work paid off for July 4th celebrations

By Maj. Gen. David Zabecki

Dear Soldiers, civilians, families, and friends of the Vicenza military community:

I thank you all sincerely for your involvement in making our community 4th of July celebration an unqualified success. The two-day fest was just about everything we could have asked for. Planning and execution were virtually flawless.

Not only did we provide a quality and family-oriented celebration for our American community, we clearly accomplished our objective of thanking our wonderful Italian host nation, NATO ally, and strategic partner.

The fireworks display was the most magnificent I have ever seen. The music, the food, and the entertainment were top notch, and even the weather cooperated to make this a 4th of July to remember. It was made more

poignant knowing that a continent away, our Soldier fathers, mothers, and colleagues were thinking about us as we remembered them.

I got around the post quite a bit during the weekend. Everywhere I went, I saw Soldiers, civilians, and volunteers of every organization (to include the Scouts) working hard and long during the weekend to make our celebration a success. This display of personal sacrifice is what makes our nation so unique and strong. I want to extend a special thanks to the SETAF Carabinieri, our military police, our Caserma Ederle Fire Department, our medics, and everyone else involved in force protection for making this a safe and secure event. Over the last year and a half I've been responsible for planning and managing enough major events honoring the 60th Anniversary of WWII in Europe to know full-well what is involved there.

All key leaders are authorized



and encouraged to give compensatory time to the many people who worked so hard over the weekend and on the 4th of July. I also know that we owe a lot of people some form of recognition for their great efforts, and I encourage leaders to do what is right to acknowledge their sacrifice and volunteerism.

Again, thanks to all for making this a meaningful, fun, and safe event. We pass another milestone awaiting the safe return of our CJTF76 Soldiers and civilians.

Soldiers magazine seeks shutterbugs

Soldiers Magazine
Press Release

Soldiers Magazine is planning several special projects, and we need your photographs to make these products as colorful and informative as possible.

In December we will publish our first calendar, so we are looking for good full-frame horizontal images that depict seasonal events, Army Values or compelling moments in Army life.

In January we will need photographs that identify Army installations and Army equipment, or photographs of news events that affected the entire Army this year.

In February we will run our annual feature, "This Is Our Army," which contains candid photos of the Army family at work and play. There, we are looking for "human

interest" photos that also carry an Army theme, including strong images of tough Army training, community activities, Army operations, and deployments and returns from missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, South America and other locations.

The photos you send must be taken between August 2004 and August 2005.

For images to be considered for the calendar, they must arrive at Soldiers Magazine no later than August 2005.

Photographs for the Almanac and "This Is Our Army" can arrive by September 2005.

Each image must include a complete caption: The Who, What, Where and When of what appears in the photo, plus the photographer's name, rank and unit, plus e-mail address or phone

number in case we must contact you for further information. The captions can be imbedded in the digital photograph or included in a separate text document.

Digital images must be un-manipulated and very high resolution, a minimum of 4" x 6" at 300 dpi, and even higher for images that must be cropped. (Again, do not crop or manipulate the images yourself before sending to us.)

A small number of JPG images can be sent by e-mail, but when sending many images or sending RAW or TIFF images, please send them by CD.

If you send conventional prints, be sure to package them so they will not be damaged in the mail. Do not write captions on the back of the prints, because this will affect the image. Also do not send negatives or prints made from digital images.

Send your CDs and photo packages to: Soldiers Magazine; 9325 Gunston Rd., Ste. S-108; Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581.

Your best guide for subject matter and composition is to study the images running in "This Is Our Army" in the 2005 Soldiers Almanac or the "Sharp Shooters" features appearing in most issues of Soldiers Magazine. For a full library of back issues, visit the Soldiers Magazine archives at www4.army.mil/soldiers/archive/pdfs.

Direct questions to Don Wagner, special products editor, at (703) 806-4503 or e-mail don.wagner@belvoir.army.mil.



This is one of 150 photos that appeared in the 2005 Soldiers Almanac.

Military veterans scholarship offers \$5K towards college

The Horatio Alger Military Veterans Scholarship, funded in part by the Argyros Family foundation, the scholarship is open to any Soldier, Sailor, Airman, or Marine who serves in the Iraq or Afghanistan theaters.

The military scholarships are \$5,000, paid to the veteran's school over the course of his education, said Patrick Burns, military scholarship coordinator for the Horatio Alger association.

Thus, if a student is in college for four years, the school will get \$1,250 per year in scholarship funds.

Qualifications for the scholarship include:

♦ Veterans must be U.S. citizens or in the process of becoming citizens to qualify.

♦ Have served in the Iraq and/or Afghanistan theaters of operation since September 2001, with a Defense Department Form 214

(DD-214) to prove it.

♦ Intend to pursue a bachelor's degree at an accredited four-year U.S. school.

♦ Show proof of financial need; the threshold is \$50,000 a year in household income.

The application deadline for fall 2005 scholarships is Sept. 1.

Applications and more information about the scholarship are available online at the Web site: www.horatioalger.org.%

The Outlook

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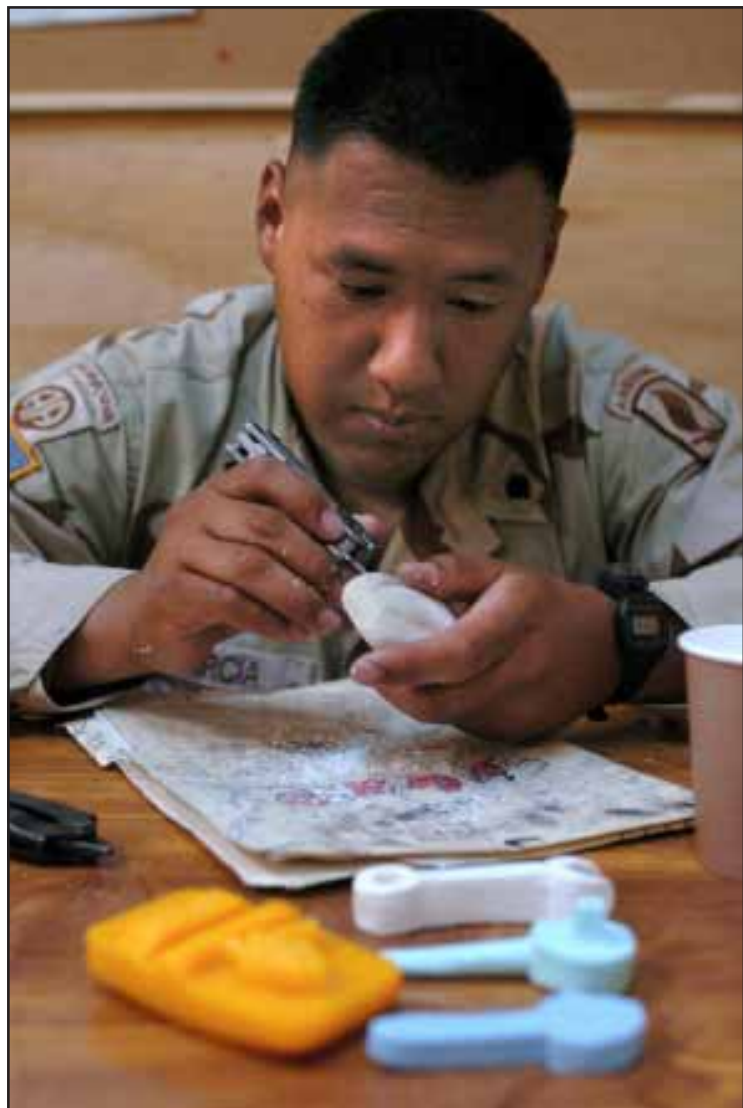
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The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for style, brevity and clarity.

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Spc. Cesar Garcia, a petroleum specialist with 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, works on carving a tree frog out of soap. Other carvings that he's done sit in front of him. He does the carvings for friends and anyone else who requests one. He's done about 30 so far on this deployment, about 120 when he was in Iraq, and 16 to 20 on his first deployment to Afghanistan.

Soldier whittles away time with soap

Story and photos
By Spc. Laura E. Griffin
Task Force Devil Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE ORGUN-E, Afghanistan-When you ask a Soldier what his or her hobby is, the most common response is usually something like watching movies, playing video games or working out.

But if you ask Spc. Cesar Garcia, a petroleum specialist with 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry Brigade, what his hobby is, you might just be a bit surprised.

"I started doing soap carvings during my first deployment to Afghanistan in July 2002," Garcia said. "It all started out as a prank with my squad leader. He put shaving cream in my helmet, so I carved his bar of soap into a something silly."

That was just the beginning of a major past time for Garcia. He continued to carve bars of soap throughout the remainder of his first deployment to Afghanistan, then continued to carve soap bars while deployed to Iraq and now this deployment to Afghanistan, although the subject matter has changed considerably.

"On my first deployment, I only had time to carve about 20 bars," Garcia recalled. "In Iraq, I carved about 120 bars. I'm on number 30 now for this deployment."

Using a leatherman and a mechanical pencil, Garcia can

"I think what he's doing is very artistic," Hoffman said. "He really touches people with his carvings."



Garcia works on carving a tree frog out of soap. He does the carvings for friends and anyone else who requests one. He's done about 30 so far on this deployment, about 120 when he was in Iraq, and 16 to 20 on his first deployment to Afghanistan.

create anything from Humvees and tool sets to gargoyles and various sea creatures and everything in between. He's even done a carving of Donald Duck with the name "Serenity" under it for Chief Warrant Officer Al Hoffman, a battalion maintenance officer for Task Force Fury.

"The carving is for my daughter, Serenity," said Hoffman. "I'll give it to her when I go home on leave."

Garcia gets a lot of his soap from the Red Cross, which donates bars of soap for the Soldiers to use.

"I take those bars and carve them into things and give them away as gifts," said Garcia. "Other Soldiers send them home to their families."

The time it takes Garcia to finish a carving depends on the subject of the carving.

"A tree frog can take up to eight hours to finish, but a human figure can take 18 hours," said Garcia. "Humvees are easy, they take only an hour."

Garcia gets many requests for his carvings. He currently has three requests in the queue.



A collection of soap carvings by Garcia sits in the Task Force Fury Command Sergeant Major's office. He does them for friends and anyone else who requests one.

Motorcycle safety class mandatory for license

Know the rules of the road before you pack and go

22nd Area Support Group
Public Affairs Office

If you're dreaming about being the next Valentino Rossi and rocketing around Italy on a motorcycle, contact the Drivers Testing office and sign up for their Motorcycle Safety Foundation course.

"Riding a motorcycle in Italy is an opportunity of a lifetime," said Alex Menzies a motorcycle safety instructor. "But it has its challenges as well."

One of the benefits of having a bike in Europe, especially on Caserma Ederle, is parking. The maneuverability in and out of tight areas allow for smoother city driving and less hassle parking, said Menzies.

"Vicenza has some of the most beautiful places to ride and the best roads for scenery," Menzies said. "We have the Dolomites to the north and the Colli Berici and Eugani are all great rides."

Along with the benefits though, come the disadvantages. Italian road conditions differ from conditions in the

United States and require a little time and patience to get used to them.

"The biggest problems Soldiers have riding here are overestimating speed and taking curves too fast," said Marvin Key, Motorcycle Safety Foundation course instructor. "Corners pose a problem because they are sharp and frequently have gravel on them."

On a motorcycle, the results of an accident are more severe because the rider is directly exposed as opposed to a automobile which protects the driver.

Both acceleration and mobility are the

benefits of riding a motorcycle, but they are also disadvantages on a motorcycle. Riders are more vulnerable at higher speeds and wearing proper riding gear is strongly encouraged.

"They make great motorcycles in Italy, as well as world-class riding gear. The personal protective equipment sold in Italy is readily available and reasonably-priced," Menzies said.

"Just because the Italians are riding fast, cutting in and out of cars, doesn't mean that Soldiers should try it," said Menzies. "They have much more experience in the aggressive driving environment, and have been riding for longer. The fact that Italians start riding mopeds and other two-wheels vehicles at an early age means they are much more aware of motorcycles. They are more tolerant and it's natural for them."

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation class is mandatory before you hit the road here. The class takes riders back to the basic skills of riding, including braking, turning and stopping among other skills.

"Riders can have a great, safe ride but they must keep their heads in the game," cautioned Menzies. "It is an aggressive environment."

To sign up for the MSF class contact Floyd Haynes, Training Instructor, Drivers Testing Station, at 634-6913, or post at 0444-71-6913, or stop by the Drivers Testing Center in the Golden Lion Inprocessing Facility.



Capt. James Cole, U.S. Army Health Clinic-Vicenza, awaits for his turn to practice one of 17 different range exercises that are part of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation rider course. Cole is wearing proper riding safety attire, which is a requirement for all Soldiers and civilian motorcycle riders. A DOT or EU approved helmet, over-the-ankle boots, full-finger gloves, reflective gear, full-length trousers, and a long sleeve shirt or jacket is required.



Dave Crotchett, SETAF G3 Simulations Division, BCTC, proceeds with caution through one of the range exercises, which simulate maneuvering through sharp corners.



(Left) Volunteer Motorcycle Safety Foundation instructors, Marvin Key, Installation Transportation officer, and Alexander Menzies, Directorate of Logistics, Plans and Operations specialist, brief motorcycle students prior to conducting the range exercises. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation course is a mandatory requirement for all motorcycle riders in the community. (Photos by Jessica Boydston, Outlook staff)

English class offers more than learning subject, noun, verb

Story and photos
By Jessica Boydston
Outlook Staff

Working and living on an American Army post is a tough transition for most people, but doing this speaking little to no English at all, can be even more difficult and challenging.

To make things run a little more smoothly for non-English speakers, Army Community Service offers an 'English as a Second Language' class, or ESL, to people of all ages.

ESL instructor Daniela Morandi explained how there is no beginning or end

to the class, and the daily activities for the students will vary. The students will do activities such as: reading comprehension, listening activities, grammar activities, role playing, discussions, games, group work, writing activities, and much more.

Morandi also explained how she thought that the class was very important – not only for improving language skills, but important for the students socially, because they are able to meet new people and become friends with others in the class.

"Many times the students who come to the class are new to Italy and are alone," she said. "This is a place where they are able to meet other people, make friends, learn more about the post, and learn the English language.

"I think this is a safe place for them to spend time with others during the deployment of their loved ones, and also a great time to learn," Morandi clarified. "I think this class is very worthwhile, because of all of its different values. I think that if we had bigger classes then maybe more people would want to take the class."

Russian student, Tiana Robles, explains how she



English as a Second Language instructor, Daniela Morandi (seen at front of room), leads her students, Tiana Robles, left, and Irina Eicher, right, in a group discussion. The class is sponsored by Army Community Service and takes place at the ACS Family Room in Davis Hall, every Monday from 2-4 p.m. and every Friday from 9-11 a.m.

is taking the class to improve her English, and to possibly help her get a job in the states later on in the future. She also explained how she has a lot of practice with the language at home, as her husband is American and speaks very little Russian.

"I have been taking this class for two years, and before, I did not know English very well, but my husband would help me a lot," Robles explained.

Irina Eicher, another Russian student, who has been taking the class for three

months.

"It is not hard to study English, but it is to speak it," she said. "It is very hard to understand Americans in the states because there are too many accents."

The ESL class is held every Monday from 2 - 4 p.m. and Friday from 9 - 11 a.m. in the ACS Family Room in Davis Family Readiness Center.

For more information and to make reservations for the ESL class, call 634-8525.



Russian students, Irina Eicher, left, and Tiana Robles, practice some of their English writing skills by doing workbook activities. The two women are married to American Soldiers, who are currently assigned to Caserma Ederle.

Easy English...not!

If you wonder why English is such a hard language to learn, read the sentences below:

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
4. We must polish the Polish furniture.
5. He could lead if he would get the lead out.
6. The Soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
7. Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
8. A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
9. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
10. I did not object to the object.
11. The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
12. There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
13. They were too close to the door to close it.

July Yard of the Month goes to Ashpes family



Congratulations to Maj. Stephen Ashpes and family for being awarded SETAF Yard of the Month for July. The Ashpes' received a coupon book from AAFES, a \$25 gift certificate from the commissary and a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond from the Association of the United States Army. (Photo courtesy of SETAF)

Vicenza High School honors

Vicenza High School News Release

Many Vicenza High School students continued their path to excellence during the fourth quarter of the school year.

Below are those students who accomplished their goals of academic excellence.

Congratulations to all.

High Honors

The following Vicenza Middle and High School students had straight A's for the fourth quarter:

12th Grade
Tomory, Lauren

11th Grade
Brown, Jillian
Eldredge, Shannon
Franke, Benjamin
Green, Denaris
Weston, Daniel

10th Grade
Bell, Chris
Buhler, Crystal
Gafford, Megan
St. Vincent, Adam
Williams, Zackery

9th Grade

Bissett, Nicole
Malone, Claire

8th Grade

Aguirre, Ana
Kamiya, Jamie

7th Grade

Bissett, Audra
Buffington, Elizabeth
Eldredge, Darren
Franke, Seth
McGuire, Thomas
Williams, Matthew

Honors

The following Vicenza Middle and High School students achieved grade point averages of 3.5 or above for the fourth quarter:

12th Grade
Bryan, Rachel
Catena, Carmen
Huffman, Sarah
Keating, Martin
Malone, Sarah
Norcross, Nykole
Smolonsky, Adam

11th Grade
Beauchamp, Luke
Bender, Christopher

Higgins, Meghan
Mahadeo, Sheri A.
Pemberton, Grace
Pimentel, Sheroski
Stepps, Christopher

10th Grade

Askins, Heidi
Boydston, Jessica
Buhler, Crystal
Green, Katanya
Savusa, Alexandrya
Stammerjohan, Aubrey
Williams, Melvin

9th Grade

Bender, Heather
Brown, William
Gilbert, Chakeira
Harrington, Keisha
Harrington, Keisha
Nausadis, James
Stammer, Kyle
Trotta, John
Wiehe, Joseph

8th Grade

Ames, Chelsea
Barteau, Kenneth
Bonnente, James
Carpenter, Gretchen
Dallmann, Ashley
Douglas, Lekendra
Fairley, Kenesha

Kight, Christian
Kimble, Whitney
O'Brien, Katelyn
Prados, Janette
Ritchie, Andrew
Savusa, Alexander
Vallery, Anna
Wiehe, Phillip

7th Grade

Arroyo, Miata
Brown, Callie
Buffington, Jackson
Driscoll, Dylan
Hann, Teresa
Hann, Teresa
Hinton, Kyle
Huffman, Eric
Kaus, Kyle
Lane, Justin
Morrow, Bianca
Nesmith, Devin
Stanley, Valerie
Vanderlugt, Lauren
Weik, Taylor

Cougar Roll

Cougar Roll is a VHS program that highlights students who have improved their grade point average by .5 or more from the third

quarter to the fourth quarter.

12th Grade

Catena, Carmen
Cucciniello, Angelic
Hann, Claire
Wood, Cecil

11th Grade

Beauchamp, Luke
Draper, Shyla
Leos, Sarah
Pimentel, Sheroski
Weston, Daniel

10th Grade

Bloomer, Stephen
Douglas, Stanley
Stammerjohan, Aubrey
Williams, Melvin

9th Grade

Brown, William
McDonald, Michael
Perches, Albert

7th Grade

Aftene, Florin
Arambul, Christen
Bartley, Jacob
Canipe, John
Haniff, Eric
Jeffries-Cade, Aryn
Nupp, Christopher
Pemberton, Samuel

Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

The antique Orient

A recently-opened museum in the town of Brendola, province of Vicenza, has five rooms dedicated to the antique Orient.

In the museum, visitors have the opportunity to see Feng Shui's principles fully applied. The rooms are decorated with the main ingredient being a collection of Eastern antique pieces and antique objects and pieces of furniture.

The first room contains antique furniture and objects from China; in the second room visitors find porcelain from a Thailand ship that sank in 1440 near the Vietnam port of Hoi-An.

Items in other rooms include Oriental bells from China and Tibet; the art and spiritualism of antique Tibet.

Other objects are and furniture of the domestic life from China to the population of the Himalayas. The museum, located in Villa Orna, is open Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-noon and 4-7 p.m., entrance fee is 5 Euro.

Italian handicrafts

In the castle of Marostica, located in the famous chess square, a handicraft exhibition is open to the public through Aug. 28.

The exhibit is open Tuesday through Sunday from 9:30 - noon and 3:30-7:30 p.m. and entrance is free. This yearly exhibit was visited by more than 20,000 visitors last year.

Change to opening hours

The *Teatro Olimpico* and the *Pinacoteca* have changed their visiting hours for the month of July through Aug. 28.

The Teatro is open Tuesday-Sunday from 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

The Pinacoteca, which is almost opposite the Teatro, is open from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Both are closed on Mondays. The *Museo del Risorgimento e della Resistenza*, the Risorgimento and Resistance Museum, located just after the church of Mount Berico is open from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2:15-5 p.m., closed on Mondays.

Music events

Sunday: The London Schools

Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Peter Ash, will give a free concert at 8:45 p.m. in the Marostica's castle courtyard, which is the one located in the human chess square.

The soloist will be Alexander Markov on violin and the program will include music by L. Cherubini, N. Paganini and G. Mahler.

The orchestra consists of 101 young musicians from London and claims to be one of the best youth orchestras in the area.

Friday: Italian singer Francesco Rengo performs in Vicenza's main square at 9:30 p.m. You will not be able to enter the square without a ticket.

Monday: In Vicenza's Viale Mazzini, located downtown, two radio stations 'Radio Birikina' and 'Radio Bella & Monella,' with their DJs can be enjoyed as part of the 'Festa sotto le mura,' *Festival Show 2005*.

Events begin at 9:30 p.m. and entrance is free.

Friday: Joaquin Cortes and Gitana Cortes perform in Villa Pisani, in Stra.

Sunday: In Romeo's castle, located in Montecchio Maggiore, the Bayerisches Staatsballett ballet company will perform at 9:20 p.m.

Tickets for both above concerts are available online at www.ticketone.it, or at area stores.

Visit a castle

The Avio Castle, located in the town of *Sabbionara d'Avio*, is a complex set on the summit of the hill of the town, and dominates the Lararina valley.

It is thought to have been once a kingdom stronghold, because of its strategic position, probably even before the Romans conquered Verona in 225 A.D., when they built two important roads on either side of the river Adige.

Visitors to the castle during this period will find that the castle has been transformed into a 'house of fairytales.' Children and adults alike can take part or see the fairytale personalities such as Hansel and Gretel, Snow White and the seven dwarfs, Little Red Riding Hood, or meet gnomes in the woods and see farmyard animals.

The castle is open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. everyday but closed on Mondays.

Entrance fees for adults is 3.50 Euro, children pay 2.50 Euro.

Directions: The castle is located in the Trento region. By car take the autostrada A4 west to the A22, take the A22 north towards Brennero, exit Ala-Avio, which is located between Verona and Trento. Parking is available near the castle.

A model of 19th century life

Lying on the River Adda, about 18 miles east of Milan, *Crespi d'Adda* is a unique and fascinating example of a late 19th century model village.

Established in 1878 by Cristoforo Benigno Crespi, proprietor of a cotton mill, the community included the factory, housing and social facilities for employees, a central square, a church, and a "castle" for the owners.

The areas for work, free time, and housing were clearly delimited, with the layout faithfully reflecting the social hierarchy.

The residential accommodation gets more up-market the further you go from the factory: with apartment blocks for the workers, terraced housing for the clerks, and roomy villas for management.

The project continued until 1925, by which time the village added a kindergarten, a medical clinic, a cemetery, and a public washhouse.

While the idea of keeping the workers firmly in their places, free of any dangerous ideas of class struggle and rights, may be outdated, the intentions of this industrious philanthropist can still be admired today.

Despite the fact the cotton mills closed down many years ago, the village has remained largely untouched and, in 1995, was designated as the 'Patrimony of Mankind' on the World Heritage List.

It must be noted that in the village there are no hotels or restaurants.

For guided visits, which take approx three hours, call 02-909-87191. For directions, visit the Web site, which is available in English at: www.villaggiocrespi.it.

Tickets for the water park cost (with minimum of 30 people) 13 Euro for adults. Ticket prices for less than 30 people is 17 Euro for adults, and children ages 2-8, pay 13 Euro. Children under age 2 get free transportation and entrance.

Aug. 10, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Beach Day in Sottomarina. Fee of \$10 per person includes transportation and escort assistance.

Aug. 13, 1:30- 11 p.m. Fisherman Feast cruise and dinner. Adults \$75; Children 3-12 \$45, children under age 3 free.

Price includes transportation, escort assistance, dinner and cruise. Minimum 35 paying adults.

Call ITR at 634-7094 to sign up for these trips.

Now Showing

Caserma Ederle Theater

July 19	Harry Potter - Chamber of Secrets (PG)	3 p.m.
July 20	The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (PG)	5 p.m.
	The Interpreter (PG13)	7 p.m.
July 21	The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (PG)	7 p.m.
July 22	The Longest Yard (PG13)	7 p.m.
	House of Wax (R)	10 p.m.
July 23	XXX: State of the Union (PG13)	2 p.m.
	House of Wax (R)	7 p.m.
	The Longest Yard (PG13)	10 p.m.
July 24	The Longest Yard (PG13)	2 p.m.
	XXX: State of the Union (PG13)	7 p.m.
July 25	Closed	
July 26	Harry Potter: Prisoner of Azkaban (PG)	3 p.m.

Camp Darby Theater

July 22	Madagascar (PG)	7 p.m.
July 23	King's Ransom (PG13)	7 p.m.

Movie Synopsis

THE HITCHHIKERS GUIDE TO THE GALAXY - *Martin Freeman, Mos Def.* Earthman Arthur Dent is having a very bad day. His house is about to be bulldozed, he discovers that his best friend is an alien and to top things off, planet Earth is about to be demolished to make way for a hyperspace bypass. Arthur's only chance for survival: hitch a ride on a passing spacecraft. Arthur sets out on a journey in which he finds that nothing is as it seems: he learns that a towel is just the most useful thing in the universe, finds the meaning of life, and discovers that everything he needs to know can be found in one book: *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

HOUSE OF WAX - *Elisha Cuthbert, Chad Michael Murray.* A group of friends on their way to a college football game falls prey to a pair of murderous brothers in an abandoned small town. They discover that the brothers have expanded upon the area's main attraction.. the House of Wax, and created an entire town filled with the wax-coated corpses of unlucky visitors. Now the group must find a way out before they too become permanent exhibits in the House of Wax.

THE INTERPRETER - *Nicole Kidman, Sean Penn.* Silvia alleges that she has overheard a death threat against an African head of state, in an instant, Silvia's life is turned upside down as she becomes a hunted target of the killers. Placed under the protection of federal agent Tobin, they must depend on one another, as the danger of a major assassination on U.S. soil grows. Silvia and Tobin play out a gripping dance of evasion and revelation that keeps them both guessing as they race to stop a terrifying international crisis before it's too late.

THE LONGEST YARD - *Adam Sandler, Chris Rock, Burt Reynolds.* Paul "Wrecking" Crewe was a revered football superstar back in his day, but that time has since faded. But when a messy drunk driving incident lands him in jail, Paul finds he was specifically requested by Warden Hazen, a duplicitous prison official well aware of Paul's athletic skills. Paul has been assigned the task of assembling a team of convicts, to square off in a big football game against the sadistic guards. With the help of fellow convict Caretaker, and an old legend named Nate to coach, Crewe is ready for what promises to be a very interesting game. It's only the warden and the guards who have no idea who or what they're up against, with Paul the driving force behind the new team.

XXX: STATE OF THE UNION - *Ice Cube, Samuel L. Jackson.* NSA Agent Augustus Gibbons, fresh off the success of his last renegade recruitment, once again finds himself in need of an outsider. Gibbons and his new agent, also code-named "XXX," must track a dangerous military splinter group led by Willem Dafoe that is conspiring to overthrow the U.S. Government in the nation's capital.

MADAGASCAR - *Ben Stiller, Chris Rock.* Four residents of the New York's Central Park Zoo: Alex the lion, Marty the zebra, Melman the giraffe, and Gloria the hippo have spent their whole lives living happily in a zoo. Then Marty falls in with a crowd of devious penguins, who bring him along in their escape attempt. When Alex realizes his friend is missing, he leads a company of critters on a search that takes them all outside the zoo for the first time. But before they know it, they're captured, crated, and put on a ship traveling to Africa. An accident at sea, however, strands them on the shore of Madagascar. Having had humans take care of them their entire life, the four know nothing of surviving in the wild, or that one of them, the lion, is genetically predisposed to eat his three best friends.

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.

Out & About with ITR

Sunday, 6:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Innsbruck in the heart of the Alps. Adults \$44; children 3-12 \$35, children under age 3 are free. Fee includes transportation, escort assistance, and entrance fees. Minimum of 35 paying adults.

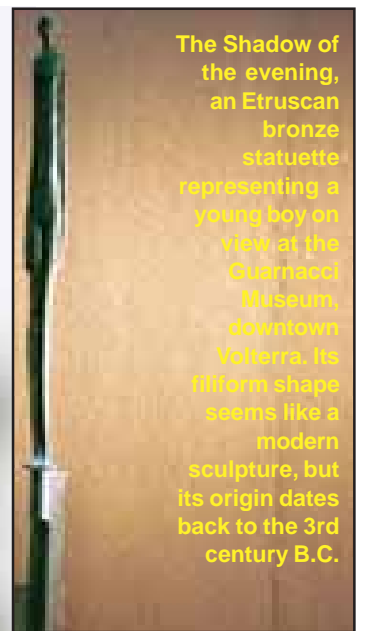
Sunday, 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Rice tasting in Verona. Adults pay \$59; children ages 3-12 pay \$49. No charge for children under age 3. Fee includes transportation, escort assistance, lunch and guided tour. Must have at least 25 paying adults.

July 30, 6:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuscany: Volterra and San Gimignano. Adults pay \$45; children ages 3-12 pay \$35. No charge for children under age 3. Includes transportation, escort

assistance, and guided tour. Minimum of 35 paying adults.

Aug. 5, 5-10 p.m. Medieval Times show and dinner Transportation and escort fee is \$10. Tickets are available on the bus. With a minimum of 30 people, cost for Medieval Times show and dinner is 20 Euro for adults. Tickets for groups of less than 30 people are 25 Euro for adults and 15 euro for children. Children under three feet tall (1 meter) are free on the bus and for the dinner.

Aug. 6, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Aquasplash waterpark and beach day in Lignano. The \$15 fee includes transportation and escort assistance. Tickets are available on the bus.



The Shadow of the evening, an Etruscan bronze statuette representing a young boy on view at the Guarnacci Museum, downtown Volterra. Itsiform shape seems like a modern sculpture, but its origin dates back to the 3rd century B.C.

Etruscan Volterra

Left: View of the surroundings of Volterra. The town, perched on the top of a Tuscan hill, was one of the biggest Etruscan cities in the 3rd century B.C. when its name was *Velathri*.

Story and photos
By Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

Velathri was the ancient name during the Etruscan civilization, which flourished in Tuscany and in Italy from the Po valley, north, to Latium and Campania between the 9th and the 1st century B.C.

3,000 years later, this town, perched on the top of a hill about 40 kilometers from the Tyrrhenian sea and 65 southeast of Pisa, still shows how the influence of Etruscans, Romans and Florence have left signs of their presence through art and architecture.

In fact, Volterra boasts archaeological sites such as the remains of the Roman Theatre, the Etruscan walls with the Etruscan Arch, the Medieval walls, about 5.5 km that enclosed the city in the past, the *Palazzo dei Priori*, built in 1208, a XII century cathedral and the so-called Tower-Houses built during the Renaissance.

Walking through its cobblestone streets, visitors may feel like they are still living in the past.

The presence of *panchino*, a type of stone whose color is gray-yellow, distinguishes the whole town including towers, streets and walls. Another important stone that is typical of this area is the alabaster, known and used when the Etruscans were around. It was used to produce sarcophaguses and funerary urns that were richly decorated since the Etruscan culture had a strong cult of the dead and funeral rites were very important.

A significant collection of these urns and other relics are on display at the *Guarnacci* Museum, one of the earliest public museums in Europe, which was founded in 1761 by a noble abbot, Mario Guarnacci, when he decided to donate his

archaeological collection to the city. Since he was an historian, his donation also included more than 50,000 volumes. The Museum is open daily 16 March-30 Oct. from 9-7 p.m. and the rest of the year daily from 9-2 p.m.

Alabaster is still quarried in the surroundings of Volterra, where the material is plentiful and helps keep alive the tradition of this craftsmanship. Around *Piazza dei Priori*, the main square, and the medieval streets, visitors may enter shops where artisans display their work that comes from a long experience.

For further information about museums and monuments check the website www.comune.volterra Information, Tours & Registration offers a trip to Volterra and San Gimignano July 30. The cost is \$45 for adults, \$35 for children from 3-12. For those interested, call ITR at 634-7094.

Below: An alabaster artisan works and displays a variety of handmade items on the windows of his shop.



Above: A big sculpture made of alabaster in the shape of two horses on view in one of the biggest shops downtown to show the ability of the old artisans that keep their tradition alive.



Above: Coats of Arms on the inferior part of *Palazzo dei Priori*, belonged to town-officials. The palace was built between 1208-54 in the heart of the town, center of the social and political life as well. Left: The *Torre del Porcellino*, Tower of the Little Pig, is the oldest building in the main square. Its name is referred to the sculpture of a little wild boar on the upper part of the facade.



Left: A green area surrounds Volterra.

Below: View of the *Balze*, a vast precipice shaped by erosion, which engulfed some necropolises and churches throughout the centuries.

