



The Outlook

June 13, 2006

U.S. Army Garrisons Vicenza & Livorno

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Sky Soldiers get first taste of Bamberg community

Story and photos
by Spc. Jon H. Arguello
173d Airborne Brigade Public Affairs

Four buses of paratroopers from the 173d Airborne Brigade rolled into Bamberg in mid-May to see what amenities their new home had to offer.

The Soldiers, mostly from Delta Battery, 3rd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 173d Support Battalion (Airborne) and the 173d Combat Support Company, were welcomed by U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg representatives, given a brief presentation, set up in barracks and had the opportunity to see the city of Bamberg first hand.

Single and married Soldiers received tours of the post they will move to in the upcoming months. The tours included walk-throughs of the gym, dining facility, education center, community activities center, schools, and more.

“Our goal,” said Lt. Col. Mark Gotto, USA Garrison Bamberg commander, “is to work every day so Soldiers and their family members can say, ‘Bamberg was the greatest community I have ever lived in’ when the leave here.”

Along with the presentation and tours,

Soldiers were given DVDs describing the posts amenities and facilities.

Bamberg, which is located approximately 100 kilometers from Grafenwoehr, where the brigade spent many months preparing for its last deployment, is a city of approximately 70,000 people.

The post’s key facilities include a recently renovated gym, a sports complex, and golf course in addition to typical Army posts facilities such as a theater, commissary, and Post Exchange.

“The post is cool,” said Spc. Vijai Bhagwandeem, a combat engineer in the 173d Combat Support Company, which will become part of the new special troops battalion after the 173d Abn Bde reorganizes into a unit of action. “I think it will be nice to be here, there seems to be a lot to do in Bamberg and the post is a lot bigger than [Caserma Ederle].”

There was a general consensus among Soldiers who believed the post had a lot to offer, said Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Bradford, an equipment operator also with 173d CSC. “I think everybody liked the post in general. It’s clean and has a lot to offer. Bamberg has everything Vicenza does and a little more,” he said.



Top: Soldiers from the 173d Airborne Brigade receive information from one of the booths at a community expo to help Soldiers familiarize themselves with what Bamberg has to offer. Below: Paratroopers receive a tour of Bamberg’s pool hall in the Community Activities Center.



Army in Europe to retain temporary employees

USAREUR
Press Release

U.S. Army, Europe announced June 6 that Army units and communities in the USAREUR area of responsibility will retain temporary employees despite the ongoing Army-wide resource challenges.

The decision to retain temporary employees applies to all Army in Europe units and communities – including USAREUR/7th Army, IMA-Europe, European Regional Medical Command, 5th Signal Command.

USAREUR and IMA-E will also sponsor a summer-hire program for young people. The six-week program will start June 26.

USAG Vicenza sets air conditioning policy

U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza Policy Memorandum 06-43, Vicenza Air Conditioning Policy (DPW)

Due to an extreme shortage of funding throughout IMA-Europe, the following policy is effective immediately. The intent of this policy is to save money on electric usage as well as operational funds for contracted services and maintenance.

During duty hours, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., **ALL air conditioners will be set no lower than 78 degrees Fahrenheit or 25 degrees Celsius.** Directorate of Public Works personnel will adjust the thermostat on central air conditioners when the unit is brought on line. No one else is authorized to adjust the thermostat. Central air conditioners will periodically run after duty hours.

Split-type air conditioners, which are operator-controlled, must be set at 78F or 25C and must be turned off after duty hours.

Take extra care with cooling units and perform operator maintenance. FYO6 budget constraints prevent DPW personnel from maintaining or fixing inoperable air conditioners this summer season.

Every leader and supervisor in the chain of command is responsible for enforcing these measures. DPW personnel and MPs will monitor offices and air conditioners during and after duty hours.

Air conditioners found operating outside these limits, with thermostats set lower, with doors and/or windows open while air conditioners are running, or running after duty hours, will be reported to the SETAF chief of staff.

Point of contact for this memorandum is Kambiz Razzaghi, director of DPW, 634-7606.

Signed: Col. Virgil S.L. Williams, USAG Vicenza commander.

U.S. operations, basing in Europe changing dramatically

Eastern European Task Force coming

By Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

The U.S. military footprint in Europe is significantly changed from just a decade ago. Gone are dozens of American enclaves — some self-contained communities complete with schools, shopping centers and housing complexes — located throughout Western Europe, but primarily in Germany.

In their place soon will be small regional training centers in Romania and Bulgaria, through which U.S. combat brigades will rotate on training and regional-security-cooperation missions.

Transformation has been a dramatic process in U.S. European Command. In an interview yesterday with the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service, Army Gen. William E. “Kip” Ward, the command’s deputy commander, described some of the varied ways the U.S. military is changing how it does business in Europe, Eurasia and Africa.

The Eastern European Task Force will consist of a small

permanent staff of U.S. servicemembers facilitating the rotation of U.S. brigades through Romanian and Bulgarian bases.

These rotational brigades will conduct training with Eastern European militaries and be available to react to any potential developing crises in the region.

“The Eastern European Task Force is clearly an integral leg of a transformed U.S. European Command,” Ward said.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in April signed an agreement with Bulgaria granting the United States access to Bulgarian training bases. She signed a similar agreement with Romania in December.

Ward described this basing arrangement with the host countries as a win-win situation. The host countries get training from U.S. forces, and the United States spends less money on infrastructure and upkeep of facilities.

“We have the capability in that region to do some things with the existing infrastructure from the former Soviet days, capitalizing on some of their training grounds,” Ward said.

See European basing on page 3

Theft of VA data prompts security procedure overhaul

By Steven Donald Smith
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 8, 2006 – The Department of Veterans Affairs is revamping its data security procedures following last month’s theft of a VA laptop computer that contained personal information of veterans and military personnel still in uniform, the secretary of the VA told a congressional committee Thursday.

“We will stay focused on these problems until they are fixed,” said R. James Nicholson during hearings before the House Committee on Government Reform. “We will take direct and immediate action to address and alleviate affected people’s concerns. We are accountable to our nations

veterans and servicemembers.”

On May 3, the Montgomery County, Md., home of a 34-year VA employee was burglarized and a laptop and hard drive containing personal data of 26.5 million veterans and more than 2 million active-duty, Guard and Reserve members, was stolen. The laptop also contained some spousal and dependent information. The data included birth dates and Social Security numbers, VA officials said.

The stolen laptop did not contain any health records, Nicholson said.

Clay Johnson, the White House’s Office of Management and Budget deputy director for management, referred to the incident as an “unprecedented security breach.”

See Data loss on page 3

Memorial ceremony honors Soldier



Capt. Paul Larson, who served with Spec. Jared Leonard in Afghanistan, speaks at Leonard's memorial ceremony Wednesday at the Ederle Chapel. (Photo by Spc. Justin Nieto, SETAF Public Affairs)

By Spc. Justin Nieto
SETAF Public Affairs

Spc. Jared Leonard, a mortar man with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry (Airborne), was mourned and remembered in a ceremony at the post chapel Wednesday.

Leonard passed away on Memorial Day at the age of 24.

"It was a great privilege to serve as his company commander," said Capt. Paul Larson, who served with Leonard in Afghanistan. "From what I saw, he was a good son, an overachieving Soldier, and a great citizen in all respects."

Larson praised Leonard's family for the influence they had in his life.

"It's obvious to me that he was raised to be an honorable person," said Larson. "He understood his obligations more so than even his contemporaries."

"It would be false to say Leonard's death doesn't hurt us," said Larson. "He was a

paratrooper and an infantryman. I'll remember that while many of us may live a long life, few of us will live as happy a one as Leonard."

1st Lt. Luke Langer, who also served with Leonard in Afghanistan, added his memories of the fallen Soldier.

"He never asked for praise in anything he did," said Langer.

Langer recalled a moment in Afghanistan when Leonard requested to be put on duty in one of the most contested areas his unit held. "For him, those mud huts were home and those men were his brothers," said Langer.

"We will remember Leonard in the walls of the school he helped build in Afghanistan," said Langer. "Every child that passes through those halls carries a piece of Leonard with them."

Langer closed by saying the people in attendance, Soldiers and family members, will all learn from Leonard.

"We will all learn about the consequences of our actions," said Langer. "We will learn from you and we will miss you."



Spc. Jared Leonard

Community Action Council

This forum is to discuss issues affecting the community. If you have an issue you wish to submit, visit the USAG Vicenza Web site at www.usag.vicenza.army.mil and click on the Community Action Council link. This link provides you the opportunity to review issues that have been previously submitted and responded to by post agencies. There is also a form available for you to submit any new issue you would like addressed. If you have questions, call 634-5222 or 0444-71-5222 from off post.

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

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

Childcare is offered during the CAC at \$4 per hour, per child, for children ages 6 weeks old through kindergarten from 8:45-11:15 a.m. Preregistration is required. Children will be cared for in the Child Development Center, building 395. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services Central Registration. Call 634-7219 or stop by their location in the Davis Family Readiness Center.

The CAC will not be held in June.

Issue: The playgrounds on Villaggio are constantly littered with garbage, toys, bikes, clothes, shoes and other items left by the children who play there.

I know there is a Command Policy

concerning supervision of children on post and on Villaggio. It seems as though there is little enforcement of this policy. Even for those children who are old enough to play unsupervised, parents should be aware of what they're doing and if they trash a community area, they should be responsible for it.

Recommendation: (1) Foot patrols by security personnel throughout Villaggio, to include the playgrounds (2) Enforcement of command policy concerning supervision of children (3) Perhaps the playgrounds could be cleaned once a week by persons sentenced to community service and any items left out of yards could be thrown out.

Response from DPW: We have tools in place to support occupants and help to maintain the common areas together with specific policy as detailed below, but the bottom line is: without parent involvement in children's activities and behavior we are fighting a losing battle.

1. The playgrounds in Villaggio are equipped with trash cans/receptacles that are emptied by the municipal garbage collection agency on the days they perform trash collection from the dumpsters.

2. In addition, our maintenance contractor passes through Villaggio every day (excluding Sunday) and picks up trash that is outside of trash receptacles and around the trash collection islands. They come through about 2 p.m. onwards each week day and between 10 a.m. and noon on Saturdays.

3. Our Housing policy for Occupants Area, Block & Building Coordinators (see extract Para 4.g) also discusses children and playing.

Common Access Card logon to increase computer security

U.S. Army, Europe
News Release

U.S. Army, Europe and Installation Management Agency-Europe Soldiers and civilian employees already use their common access cards as "passports" through the gates of installations where they live and work. Soon, the cards will also provide entry to USAREUR's computer networks.

The Department of Defense began issuing CAC or "smart" cards in 2000, and Soldiers and civilian employees have since used them to digitally sign documents or encrypt e-mail, verify deployment readiness and create travel orders and vouchers.

And use of the chip-equipped cards is still expanding: Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 directs all federal government employees to use smart cards when they access official computer networks. DoD has set an implementation date of July 31 for smart card logon; the Army's deadline is June 30.

USAREUR and IMA-EURO information management staff will phase in the logon capability in the coming weeks, according to Col. David De Vries, USAREUR assistant deputy chief of staff for information.

De Vries said smart card logon increases computer network security by ensuring two-factor identification. Each user must provide both the smart card and the personal identification number associated with it – as De Vries put it, network access will require "something you have, and something you know."

Smart card logon implementation has already begun across the theater, De Vries said, as systems administrators push software to user's computers, prompting

a dialogue box at the next user logon.

The dialogue box asks users to associate their smart cards with their logon accounts by entering the Personnel Identification Number stored on the smart card. Once this is done, he said, within 24 hours smart card network access is possible.

Happy Barranco, USAREUR PKI program manager, said while smart card logon is phasing in, users can still access the network by entering a user name and password, but she encourages people to adopt the new system.

"The advantage to using the smart card will be that you don't have to change your password every 60 days," she said.

Some USAREUR network users are not eligible for common access cards, Barranco said, including:

- Local national employees in Italy and Greece
- Family members
- Retirees
- Employees of non-DoD organizations such as the Red Cross and Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts of America
- Holders of role-based accounts, such as watch officers; and secondary accounts, such as system administrators and reserve military personnel.

When smart card logon implementation is complete, Barranco said, standard Outlook Web mail access will not work until the theater migrates to the new e-mail system some time in 2007.

Access can be approved on a case-by-case basis, and those whose duties require it should contact their systems administrator or information management officer, she said.

For more information, contact your unit information management officer.

The U.S. Army's deadline to start logging on with a CAC card is June 30.

buildings should be used).

(7) Playing in the street, parking areas, or parking lots on foot, tricycles, roller-skates, or skateboards.

(8) Firing or discharging of air rifles, or pellet guns, throwing rocks, shooting arrows, flying motor driven planes or playing with other dangerous objects such knives, fire crackers, cherry bombs or razor blade in and around housing area.

(9) Playing in or around garbage containers.

(10) Gathering around and/or obstructing emergency vehicles, i.e. fire trucks, police vehicles, ambulances, etc.

(11) Interfering with grass cutting operations.

(12) Playing in or around construction sites.

Issue: Having only one person working at the Ciao Café constantly causes one to have to wait too long for a coffee. The long line causes a wait period that lasts longer than the 15 minutes break most employees are allowed to take.

Recommendation: Have another employee.

Response from AAFES: The Ciao Café has become one of the most popular food facilities on Caserma Ederle. Pino, the contractor, is committed to providing the best service to our customers.

The contractor is currently looking for a part time employee to assist him during peak hours to decrease the waiting time.

We will follow up and monitor the contractor's performance to ensure that the service is provided in a speedy manner.

Summer Safety Tip

Practice wading pool safety

USAG Vicenza Safety Office
Special to the Outlook

Wading pools are a fun way for children to cool off during the summer months and are safe if used appropriately.

Community members are required to ensure adult supervision is continuous when children are using the pool, and that the pool is completely emptied after use. This will prevent accidents if other community members use the pool.

Here are some safety tips:

- Prevent pets from accessing the pool.
- Check the water temperature before use.

- Remove debris, keep the water clean.

- Don't allow eating and drinking in the pool during usage.

- Slippery conditions can be present when water spills out of the pool. When this condition exists, try relocating pool to a drier location.

- Use sunscreen to prevent sunburns.

- Don't allow too many children in the pool at one time.

- Disinfect your wading pool prior to usage.

- Attempt to keep children from drinking pool water.

For more information on safety issues, visit the Combat Readiness Center Web site at: crc.army.mil.

U.S. military basing in Europe changing

European basing from page 1

"We capitalize on what is there, because we go into existing locations and facilities," he continued. "And I think we reap the benefit of that at a much-reduced cost, as opposed to going in and establishing a whole new infrastructure and base operations to support our training and security-cooperation requirements."

This arrangement also reinforces the notion of expeditionary forces, as employed throughout U.S. Central Command in the war on terrorism, he said.

Once the Army transformation process is further along in Europe, a Stryker brigade combat team of the 2nd Cavalry, scheduled to move to Germany from Fort Lewis, Wash., this summer, and the 173rd Brigade Combat Team, based in Vicenza, Italy, will be available to rotate through the Eastern European Task Force as well, Ward said.

Another valuable aspect of forward basing U.S. forces in Eastern Europe is the opportunity to help shape regional militaries so they can better interact with allies during combined operations.

EUCOM, in close concert with NATO, is working to reinforce such concepts as an expeditionary force structure and a professional noncommissioned officer corps, Ward said.

"Transformation is not just about things. Transformation is about the intellectual aspects of thinking about the way you do business, as well," he said.

"And, quite frankly, before the physical part of transformation occurs, that intellectual shift has to occur," he said.

Such efforts benefit the United States as well, he said, because they make other countries better partners in the Long War.

VA initiates actions to secure data

Data loss continued from page 1

The main concern is the information could be used for nefarious acts such as identity theft. There have been no reports of ill-use thus far.

The area where the robbery occurred has witnessed a recent spate of home burglaries and officials do not think the data on the laptop was the target.

"We remain hopeful that this was a common, random theft and that no use will be made of this data," Nicholson said.

The VA employee, who worked as a data analyst, was not authorized to bring the information home.

"I am totally outraged at the loss of this data and the fact that an employee would put so many people at risk by taking it home in violation of existing VA policies," Nicholson said. "I've never been so disappointed and angry at people."

Nicholson outlined various ways the VA is working to prevent such an incident from happening again.

"I have initiated several actions to strengthen our privacy and data security programs," he said. "On

May 24, we launched the data security, assessment and strengthening program, a high-priority focus plan to strengthen our data privacy and security procedures."

Also, all VA employees must complete privacy and cyber security training by June 30. A task force of senior VA leadership was put together to review all aspects of information security and assess which employees need access to certain data, and the agency has suspended the practice of allowing veterans benefits employees from removing claimant files from agency work areas.

During the week of June 26, VA facilities across the country and in Guam and Puerto Rico will take part in security awareness training.

"Every hospital, clinic, regional office, national cemetery, field office, and our central office will stand down for security awareness week," Nicholson said.

The VA is also going through a security review to make sure its anti-virus software is updated and current, and will remove all unauthorized programs and software from employee computers.

Another issue raised by

Nicholson during today's hearing was the difficulty in punishing misconduct.

"I believe the policies we have and the legislation under which they are promulgated is generally adequate. But it is too hard in my opinion to discipline people in the civil service," he said. "I think we should consider putting...teeth into an enforcement mechanism for careless and negligent handling of personal information."

Another issue he raised was the lack of repeated background checks. He said the employee who had his laptop stolen had not had a background check in 32 years.

"This has been a painful lesson for us at the VA," Nicholson said. "Ultimately our success in changing this is going to depend on changing the culture. And that depends on our ability to change the attitudes of our people. It's our duty to do this."

The VA has set up a manned call center that veterans and active-duty personnel can call to get information about the situation and learn more about consumer identity protections. The toll-free number is 1-800-FED-INFO (333-4636), or visit their Web site at www.firstgov.com.

Nutrition Tip

from Women, Infants and Children Overseas:

Are you trying to get 5-a-day fruits and vegetables in your diet? Here is some help:

- a. Add bananas to cereal (both hot and cold)
- b. Take two pieces of fruit to work, for a morning and

afternoon snack

- c. Add chopped broccoli to pasta

- d. Buy a fruit or vegetable you have never tried

- e. Slice a tart apple or a firm pear and add it to your salad

WIC is a nutrition and supplemental food program. Call WIC Overseas at 634-6258, or 0444-71-6258 for more information.

The Outlook

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Yard of the Month winners for May



Congratulations to the Yard of the Month awardee for May, Staff Sgt. Ricky Reibsome, a Soldier with A Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Airborne), 173d Airborne Brigade. Reibsome, along with the first and second runners up received cash awards from the post exchange and commissary, along with Certificates of Appreciation. Other awardees are:



First runner up was Staff Sgt. Lawrence Born, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, USAG Vicenza.



Second runner up was Staff Sgt. Kevin Field, C Company, 1-508th Inf (Abn), 173d Abn Bde.



Honorable mentions for the month of May are (from the left) Staff Sgt. William Newcomb, Bravo Company, 2 Battalion, 503 Infantry (Airborne), 173d Abn Bde; Staff Sgt. Joseph Leggette, Delta Battery, 319th Field Artillery, 173d Abn Bde; and Sgt. Rommel Manana, Able Co., 2-503d Inf (Abn), 173d Abn Bde. (Photos supplied by USAG Vicenza)





Above: Warrior Challenge participants charge down Olson Avenue on Caserma Ederle Monday on their way to Longare, a distance of 10km. Below right: Once at Longare, only three of the four team members were given bicycles but all four had to travel the 18 km route to Lago di Fimon.



The second leg of Warrior Challenge took place at Lago di Fimon, where the teams had to navigate a water hazard with blow-up kayaks supplied by Outdoor Recreation. (Photos courtesy of Vernon McClure, Outdoor Recreation manager)



By Spc. Justin Nieto
SETAF Public Affairs

Soldiers and civilians alike took to the streets, rivers and a lake of Italy Monday for “Warriors’ Challenge”, an endurance race created by MWR. The event required teams of four contestants, one of which certified to give first aid or medical assistance should injuries occur, to participate with absolutely no outside help and complete the event in under a certain time limit.

The challenge was a 40km trek, starting with a run from Caserma Ederle to Longare, all the while lugging a 50lbs sandbag on their backs. From there, the participants were given bicycles and had to ride to the next checkpoint at Lago di Fimon.

Once there, the participants had to kayak across the lake and began the final stage of the race; a bike ride all the way back to the start point with one catch; there are only three bikes for four contestants.

Coming in first place was team “Black Sheep”, consisting of Sgt. 1st Class Juan Pena, Capt. Ernesto Perez, Capt. Paul Larson and Capt. John Hopkins, all from the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 2-503 Infantry Battalion. The Black Sheep finished with an official time of 2 hours, 54 minutes. All four winners received custom bicycles for their efforts.

“It was pretty tough,” said Pena. “We had to bike, run and kayak, but we have been training as a team since the games were announced, so we felt ready.”

Congratulations to the 2006 graduating class of Vicenza High School

Vicenza High School
Special to the Outlook

Vicenza High School held its 49th annual commencement

ceremony Sunday at Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza. The 37-member graduating class of 2006 walked across the stage and received their diplomas from VHS principal, Kathleen Reiss.



Vicenza High School Class of 2006 in the Teatro Olimpico await the beginning of their graduation ceremony Sunday. For the third year in a row, the event was sent over the Internet to parents downrange. (Photo courtesy of Giorgio Hambini, Special to the Outlook)

The graduates are: Luke Beauchamp, Christopher Bender, Jacquilyn Boutwell, Jillian Brown, Shyla Draper, Shannon Eldredge, Kaytee Emmons, Noel Fernando Jr., Geovanna Guerra, Eric Henson, Meghan Higgins, Matthew Issertell, Jabraia James, Daniel Kempf, Tiffany King, Sara Leos, Francisco Lora, Sheri Mahadeo, Eric Nupp, Martin Ott, Grace Pemberton, Bianca Perry, Ashley Rabot, Ashley Ramierez, Eireanne Robertson, Savanah Sleight, Tamika Smith, Daile St. Vincent, Christopher Stepps, Volanta Stovall, MaryCatherine Sughrue, Rashundra Taylor, Siddiq Touré, Travis Waters, Quanae Watson, Christopher Weik, and Daniel Weston.

After remarks from Maj. Gen. Jason Kamiya, SETAF commander, the VHS Junior ROTC posted the colors and the American and Italian National Anthems were performed by the VHS band.

For the third year, deployed parents were able to view their seniors crossing the stage and moving their tassels from right to left via live web casts graduation day. The web cast was a combined effort of the Department of Defense Dependents Schools – Europe; USAREUR 5th Signal Command; U.S. Air Forces in Europe; Combined Joint Task Force 76 – Afghanistan; Multi-National Coalition – Iraq; AFN Europe; and M-CAST Engineering Services.

Health Clinic hours change for Warriors Celebration

U.S. Army Health Clinic, Vicenza Press Release

The U.S. Army Health Clinic, Vicenza will offer limited services from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday for Warriors Celebration.

The clinic will provide normal sick call services for Soldiers from 7-7:30 a.m. For the remainder of the day, the clinic will only provide limited acute care. There will be no routine appointments or vaccinations.

Clinic hours for other days are:
 Tuesday from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
 Wednesday (see above)
 Thursday from 1-8 p.m.
 Friday from 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
 Saturday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Pregnant patients with concerns can always call the Benincaso Pavilion at 0444-716-667.

For urgent concerns when the clinic is closed, or for medical emergencies at any time, you may go directly to the San Bortolo Hospital Emergency Room (you may contact the Patient Liaisons at 0444-9930300 or 0444-928-166).

Patient requesting an ambulance should call 0444-71-7114 from off-post, or 114 from any DSN phone on post.

VES principal trades Italy for Belgium

By Michele Taylor
Special to the Outlook

Alice Herring, principal of Vicenza Elementary School for the past six years, is leaving to take up duties as principal of the American Elementary School section at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Belgium.

Michele Taylor, the Outlook's Cooperative Work Experience student, interviewed Herring before the school year ended:

Full Name: Alice Grey Herring

Husband: Allen Smolonsky

Children: A 19-year-old son, Adam Smolonsky

Occupation: School Principal

Q. How long have you been working at Vicenza Elementary School?

A. Six years.

Q. Where are some other places that you lived and worked before coming here?

A. Goldsboro, N.C.; Austin, Texas; Sumter, S.C.; Mons, Belgium; and Brunssum in the Netherlands

Q. Which place was your favorite?

A. Where I am at the moment. I try to make the most of the place and time I am in.

Q. What is your usual work schedule?

A. When I arrive shortly after 7 a.m., I ensure that everything is in place for children to be safely served. I usually check my e-mail

and then at 8 a.m. I greet children to school. Everyday brings new challenges and rewards.

Q. What do you enjoy most about your job? Why?

A. The people—mainly the children. I feel that each person has value and worth, and the more I get to work with them, the more I see their value.

Every day is different and brings on challenges. I hope that I have made a difference in the lives of youngsters through my leadership in the school and community.

Q. What do you do when you are not working? Do you have any hobbies?

A. I'll let you know when it happens. Actually, my job is intense. My days off involve relaxing and being with my family. I like to read and watch movies and walk.

Q. Is there anyone special here who has made your job easier, or has especially helpful during your tenure here?

A. If you use the African saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." I feel that I have had that village, exponentially. It takes a whole community to raise all of our children.

I have enjoyed support from the command, community, parents, teachers and staff members.

I have been fortunate to have two great assistant principals, Charlene Sprague, and Dave Eldredge, who have led the school with me.



Alice Herring

Additionally, Rita Veronese and Manuela DeMuri, the school administrative assistants who have been in the school for years, have lent great support to me.

Q. What are you looking forward to at your new job?

A. SHAPE is an international base/school in nature, serving NATO children. Working in the international environment is exciting as an opportunity to celebrate differences and similarities in cultures.

One-third of the student population does not speak English as their first language and I look forward to that challenge.



Left to right: Adam Smolonsky, Alice Herring, and Allen Smolonsky. (Photo courtesy of Alice Herring)

Geppetto has his day in court

Submitted by Kimberly Barnard
Special to the Outlook

The Vicenza Elementary School Student Council took the classroom to the Ederle Theater May 25 and presented an entertaining trial by jury to fellow 4th-6th graders.

As the elected student government body of the elementary school, the students chose to perform the play State of Italia vs. Geppetto, The Woodcarver in honor of Law Day.

With very little practice, these students entertained their fellow students and demonstrated the roles of the judge, the bailiff, the attorneys, the witnesses and the jury in a civil litigation. Most if not all of the audience was familiar with the story of Pinocchio.

The play continued the story with the State arguing that Geppetto was not the legal father of Pinocchio and charged that Geppetto neglected and endangered Pinocchio.

Geppetto's attorney, Mr. Lampwick, argued that Geppetto was the father of Pinocchio and it was in the best interest of Pinocchio to live with Geppetto rather than in a Children's Home.

The Blue Fairy, the Talking Cricket, Pinocchio and Geppetto were all called as witnesses.

After deliberations, the jury determined upon the evidence presented that the best interests of Pinocchio would be for him to live with Geppetto.

Later that evening, 4th grader Gabriel Cohen, was still talking about the play. He was especially enthusiastic about the role of the jury in determining the outcome of the case.

The cast included:

Honorable Judge Collodi: Shaneequa Hayden

Ms. Mussino (State's attorney): Diane Thyng

Mr. Lampwick (Geppetto's attorney): William Gann

Bailiff: Bryan Thyng

Blue Fairy: Ashley Potts



Students at Vicenza Elementary School perform in the Law Day production of the State of Italia vs. Geppetto, The Woodcarver. (Photo courtesy of Vicenza Elementary School)

Talking Cricket: Rima Gasparini

Geppetto: Charles Austion

Pinocchio: Dominique Johnson

Jury members: Reagan Shimp, David Shimp, Cody Renz, Bryan Werley, Shelby Bowers, Kiana Cleveland, Christian Hammons, Christopher Martin

A big thanks to supporting VES Staff: Alice Herring, Silvia Fabiani, Angela Hartwig, and Fran Hall.

The play was sponsored and directed by the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. At the end of the performance, Col. Jeffrey C. McKittrick presented OSJA SETAF coins to each of the participating members of the Student Council.

Local Italian children visit post



Above: Lt. Marcus Nielsen, a firefighter with the Caserma Ederle Fire Department shows how firefighters use the hose in case of emergency, as part of the visit of Italian children to the fire department Wednesday. The children are students at Scuola dell'Infanzia "D. V. Battilana", a local kindergarten outside the post. About 50 children ages 3 to 6 years old especially enjoyed the fire siren, the firefighter's ladder and getting into the truck.



Above: The children get a close up look at the hose. Right: Firefighter Luca Giaretta, explains to the children, in Italian, the firefighting equipment and demonstrates how the ladder works. (Photos by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)



Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

Blooming in Noale

In the solemn event of *Corpus Domini*, which is June 18, the men and women of Noale, province of Padova, meet up on the road of the town which lies between two medieval towers.

They bring with them thousands of flowers and tree scents gathered in the days leading up to this event.

First some lay down sand and, with great mastery, sketch out the lines of a grand image; while others work to divide up petals and separate them in various baskets.

The great floral carpet, which is comprised of seven images with religious scenes is different every year.

The thousands of petals are placed delicately on the mantle of sand. Then the other tree essences are added.

By the time they're finished, the carpet covers 160 square meters.

The end each floral composition is 'framed' with a grassy mantel, and the effect is amazing.

A continuous spray of water holds the petals to the ground and keeps them fresh all through the day. The carpet remains whole till sunset, on show to the thousands of intrigued onlookers.

At dusk, the religious entourage that carries the Eucharist in its triumph passes the length of the carpet, processing down the sides so as not to spoil the floral homage.

Directions to Noale: Exit autostrada A4 at Padova est, in the direction for Vigonza; S. Maria di Sala; then find Noale.

Concerts in Villas

The 25th concert festivals in Veneto villas takes place June 24-July 22:

June 24: Ponte di Barbarano—music by G. Rossini;

June 29: Sarmeago—music by Grieg, Mozart, Elgar and Respighi.

July 7: In Bagnolo, Lonigo—music by Leonard Bernstein, Cole Porter, and others;

July 15: Rosa—music by Bach, Verdi, Puccini, Gershwin, Count Basie and others

July 22: Montecchio Maggiore—'On the Wings of a Butterfly' played by the Pesaro Symphonic Orchestra with the Trevigiana chorus 'Voci del Piave.'

All performances start at 9 p.m. Tickets available from Vicenza.Com Village, 67 Corso Palladio downtown and cost 12 euro, children under 12 free.

As all of the concerts are held in the gardens of the villas, mosquito

repellent would be a good idea.

Sand sculptures

The IX International Festival of 'Sand Sculptures 2006' takes place this year at Jesolo Lido in Piazza Brescia June 17-July 23. This year's subject is 'Africa.'

This features sand sculptures of remarkable dimensions built by artists from all over the world.

The works are built inside an outdoor pavilion where you can also see a photographic exhibition about past editions.

Opening hours are every day from 9 a.m.- 11 p.m.

Medieval events

The town of Este, south of Padova, was liberated in 1257 by Azzo VII following a hard-fought battle with the ruling Carraresi family of Padova.

Azzo D'Este's triumphant return and the subsequent celebration will be remembered in a free festival Sunday.

The walled city will be filled with court balls, equestrian competitions and medieval-style entertainment.

Inside the castle grounds, the medieval market will open in the early morning with trades persons dressed in medieval costume.

At 9:30 a.m. there is a crossbow competition.

At 5:30 p.m. watch tourneys between knights. Later, in the evening, is a ceremony for the knights who won the competitions earlier in the day

At 10:30 p.m. see the historical procession and at 11:30 p.m. there will be an attack on the castle and the lighting of one of the towers.

Este is located 43 km from Vicenza.

Chioggia: The war of Chioggia was fought over Chioggia's famous salt-flats and neighboring kingdoms wanted access to this valuable commodity.

Centuries ago on June 17-18 the war ended in a peace pact and the townspeople have been celebrating ever since!

Residents of the town's six major boroughs dress as they did in medieval times and engage in a variety of contests.

Competitions include displays of bow-and-arrow skills and boat races in Chioggia's lagoon.

Some of the events taking place on both days from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and from 5 p.m.-midnight, the center of the town will be transformed back to medieval times with the selling

of salt; craftsmen and women working, taverns open, music and dancing.

On June 18 one of the events to catch the historical parade held at 7 p.m. with flag wavers appearing at 9:30 p.m. Chioggia is located 80 kms from Vicenza, near Venice.

Pisa welcomes the summer

On the evening of June 16, the city of Pisa is illuminated by an unusual event known as the Luminaria, or lights.

During this evening, the palaces lining the River Arno are outlined by thousands of candles set in wooden forms of various shapes.

The Leaning Tower and the wall around the Piazza dei Miracoli are also lit up, giving the city a romantic glow and drawing thousands of people to the city.

On June 17, Pisa celebrates the feast-day of its patron, Saint Ranieri, with the Regata di San Ranieri.

This race involves four teams—each representing one of the city's historical boroughs—in a 1¼-mile course.

The boats are rowed by eight oarsmen, aided by a helmsman and a montatore, or climber, whose task it is to scale a 32-foot mast set on a barge stationed at the finishing line. His job is to grab the victory banner that hangs at the top.

The finish line is near the Ponte della Fortezza.

On June 27, around 5 p.m. watch a parade of about 700 people wearing medieval dress.

This is followed by the spectacle of the Gioco del Ponte, or Bridge Joust, a spirited and entertaining variation on a "tug-of-war" for which six teams in medieval costume try to force a wagon across the Ponte del Mezzo.

Local events

The Allied Forces Band Naples, directed by Lt. Stephen J. Trzcinski, U.S. Navy, will play a free concert in Piazza dei Signori, downtown Vicenza June 15 at 9 p.m.

In the town of Chiampo find 150 cherry vendors with their wares in the afternoon of June 17 and in the morning of June 18.

Murano: Two boat races take place June 18 from this Venetian island.

The first starts at 5 p.m.; the second starts at 5:45 p.m.

Both races finish at the Ponte dei Mendicanti.

Creazzo: Sunday antique market
Malo: Sunday antique market.

Now Showing

Caserma Ederle Theater

June 13	CLOSED	
June 14	Stay Alive (PG13)	7 p.m.
June 15	Slither (R)	7 p.m.
June 16	The Sentinel (PG13)	7 p.m.
	Basic Instinct 2 (R)	9:30 p.m.
June 17	Take the Lead (PG13)	4 p.m.
	The Sentinel (PG13)	7 p.m.
June 18	Larry the Cable Guy (PG13)	4 p.m.
	ATL (PG13)	7 p.m.
June 19	CLOSED	
June 20	CLOSED	

Camp Darby Theater

Beginning in June, Camp Darby will also air movies on Thursdays.

June 15	Lucky Number Slevin (R)	6 p.m.
June 16	Basic Instinct 2 (R)	6 p.m.
June 17	Failure to Launch (PG13)	6 p.m.
June 18	Ice Age 2: The Meltdown (PG)	2 p.m.

Movie Synopsis

STAY ALIVE - *Jon Foster, Samaire Armstrong*. After the mysterious brutal death of an old friend, a group of teenagers find themselves in possession of "Stay Alive," a next generation horror survival videogame based on the true story of a 17th-century noblewoman known as "The Blood Countess." The gamers don't know anything about the game other than the fact that they're not supposed to have it—and they're dying to play it.

THE SENTINEL - *Michael Douglas, Kiefer Sutherland*. Pete Garrison is the most decorated agent in the history of the Secret Service - the president's last line of defense. But now, wrongly suspected of targeting the president for assassination, Garrison has become the Service's worst nightmare. As he uses his formidable skills to try and prove his innocence and find the real assassin, Garrison is tracked by his equally adept former protégée.

BASIC INSTINCT 2 - *Sharon Stone, David Morrissey*. After relocating from San Francisco to London, best-selling crime novelist Catherine Trammell once again finds herself on the wrong side of the law. Dr. Michael Glass, a respected London criminal psychiatrist, is brought in by Scotland Yard detective Roy Washburn to perform a psychiatrist profile and evaluation of Trammell following the mysterious death of a top sports star.

SLITHER - *Nathan Fillion, Elizabeth Banks*. A small town in America—somewhat quaint and gentle—peopled with friendly folks who mind their own business. But just beneath the surface charm, something unnamed and evil has arrived and is growing. No one seems to notice as telephone poles become clogged with missing pet flyers, or when one of the town's richest citizens, Grant Grant, begins to act strangely.

SHE'S THE MAN - *Amanda Bynes, Channing Tatum* - Viola Johnson had her own good reasons for disguising herself as her twin brother Sebastian and enrolling in his place at his new boarding school. She was counting on Sebastian being AWOL from school as he tried to break into the music scene in London. What she didn't count on was falling in love with her hot roommate, Duke, who in turn only has eyes for the beautiful Olivia.

LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN - *Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman*. Set in New York City, a case of mistaken identity lands Slevin in the middle of a war being plotted by two of the city's most rival crime bosses: The Rabbi and The Boss. Slevin is under constant surveillance by relentless Detective Brikowski as well as the infamous assassin Goodkat and finds himself having to hatch his own ingenious plot to get them...before they get him.

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.

509th Signal Battalion upgrading system; temporary outages to be expected

Public Service Announcement

The 509th Signal Battalion will be experiencing outages during the following days and times:

June 13 from 6 p.m.-midnight, and June 14 from 6 p.m.-midnight.

All outages are in support of the Local Processing Center Italy supporting server operations for all Army Italy server processing requirements.

Each of these outages will mean the total and temporary loss of exchange mail, Black Berry services, etc.

Upon completion of all outages, the 509th Sig Bn will have modernized the server farms with new hardware, software, racks, upgraded power and air conditioning, new UPS system, etc.

Please contact your organizational IMO for more details or if you have questions.

Villaggio communication network upgrades underway

509th Signal Battalion Special to the Outlook

A communications improvement construction project is underway in Villaggio with an anticipated completion date of Sept. 13.

As part of this project, labor contractors require access inside residences—three one-day visitations will need to take place. Residents will be notified in advance when construction will begin and when contractors require entry into residences.

Construction will be done in phases. The first phase of

construction is underway and includes Buildings 1, 2, 150 and 160 and is scheduled for completion around June 25.

The contractors will place an underground metal box outside each building. This will be followed by inside cabinet installation work, either in the garage or laundry room. This work will take approximately one day to complete.

The second phase of construction should take place between June 19 and July 28. This work includes directional boring and trench excavation along the back property line for installation

of buried duct and manholes.

Residents will be notified in advance if pets need to be secured where fenced areas are to be crossed and restored.

Third phase of construction is scheduled for July 17 through Sept. 13 and includes installation of communications cables into the buried infrastructure, time required in each residence is approximately one day. Testing of cables and equipment will be next, and the time contractors will require in residences is approximately one day. Final cleanup and restoration to follow up.

Earning their wings



Paratroopers from the Southern European Task Force and the 173d Airborne Brigade participated in an exchange jump with the Italian Army's Folgore Brigade May 22 at the Nella Drop Zone near Livorno, Italy. The Soldiers jumped out of the tail of a C-130 under ideal weather conditions using the MC1-1 parachutes earning Italian jump wings. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Jacob Caldwell, 173d Airborne Brigade Public Affairs)



Above: Staff Sgt. William Gokey reviews jump maneuvers with Soldiers prior to donning parachutes. Left: A jumpmaster makes a final check of the paratrooper's chute. Below: Paratroopers participate in pre-jump activities led by an Italian jumpmaster at the Livorno Airbase, Italy.



Capt. Christopher Weld from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 173d Abn Bde, gathers his parachute after landing at the Juliet Drop Zone near Vajont, Italy. (Photo courtesy of Kent Harris, Stars & Stripes)

