



The Outlook

May 2, 2006

U.S. Army Garrisons Vicenza & Livorno

www.USAG.Vicenza.Army.Mil

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SETAF CG chosen to head Joint Warfighting Center, joint training

SETAF Public Affairs
News Release

Maj. Gen. Jason Kamiya, SETAF commanding general, has been selected as the commander of the U.S. Joint Forces Command, Joint Warfighting Center, based in Suffolk, Va. and the director of joint training.

Maj. Gen. Kamiya took command of SETAF in April 2004 and led SETAF and Vicenza-based Soldiers through a year-long deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom VI.

The commander of the Joint Warfighting Center and director of joint training ensures the U.S.-based forces are prepared for multi-service and multi-national operations. As the director of the joint training, he will manage programs that train combat personnel and organizations from all services for joint operations.

Maj. Gen. Kamiya will replace Marine Maj. Gen. Jon A. Gallinetti. A change of command date is yet to be determined.



Maj. Gen. Jason Kamiya

International driving permits avert travel woes

USAREUR Public Affairs
News Release

Editor's Note: This information is courtesy of the USAREUR Office of the Provost Marshal

U.S. Army, Europe officials recommend that any U.S. forces personnel who drive outside their host country acquire an international driving permit.

This summer, increased security during the World Cup soccer championships in Germany makes the international driving permit a must-have in traveler's wallets, said Tom Lorenzini, USAREUR vehicle registrar.

"The expected additional border checks will raise your chances of getting fined if you are without it," he said.

"Permits are required in Austria, Greece, Spain, Turkey and all Middle Eastern countries," he said.

Lorenzini recommended the permit even for travelers who only occasionally take trips outside Germany, Italy or the Benelux nations.

Countries may change their rules at short notice, Lorenzini said, so "having the international permit is really the safe way to go."

USAREUR driver testing stations have all the information on documentation for the permit. The

requirements are slightly different from country to country, but include:

- An application form, available at the issuing agency or your local driver testing station. The form for American communities in Germany's Rhineland-Pfalz is online at <http://rmv.hqusareur.army.mil/intdrlic.htm>.
- A valid U.S. forces driver's license (AE Form 190-1F).
- Two passport-sized, civilian-dress photos.
- A fee, normally between 13 and 30 euros.
- A U.S. passport (required for civilians and family members).

In Italy, Soldiers and civilians can get an international permit only from the American Automobile Association. The Web address for more information is www.aaa.com.

International driving permits are valid for one to three years, depending on the country of issue, or until the U.S. forces license expires, whichever comes first, Lorenzini said.

They are not valid for driving in the country where they were issued, and are only valid with a U.S. forces driver's license, he said.

For more information, the U.S. Department of State has many useful tips on driving abroad on its Web site at http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1179.html.

Mother's Day Tea & Celebration

The Ederle Chapel will be hosting a Mother's Day Tea on Saturday at 2 p.m. All women of the community are invited to celebrate being a mother, aunt, sister and daughter. Special music, poetry, drama and a guest speakers will celebrate being women of God. Bring your daughters, mothers and girlfriends no matter their age for a time of fun, food and fellowship. RSVP to 634-7519 or 348-364-4610 for more information.

WARRIOR GAMES HomeFront Celebration



A Soldiers with the 173d Airborne Brigade signs up for the Warriors Challenge, a four-man, extreme-sport competition which will take place June 12 as part of the Warrior Games HomeFront Celebration. The Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation kicked off sign-ups Monday in front of the PX for all the competitions which will take place over the three-day celebration. In addition to the Warriors Challenge, there will be the Tin Man Triathlon, Mud Sweat and Tears Volleyball, and many more events. To sign up for any of the events or get more information, stop by Outdoor Recreation. (Photo by Spc. Justin Nieto, SETAF Public Affairs)

Tin Man Sprint Triathlon

As part of the Warrior Games HomeFront Celebration, Caserma Ederle will be hosting the Tin Man Sprint Triathlon on June 13 beginning at 9 a.m. near the post swimming pool. The competition will consist of a 5 kilometer run, 15 kilometer bike, and 150 meter swim. Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place male and female in each age bracket as well as best overall male and female. The age brackets are 18-29 years old, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60 and older. The run and swim portion of the competition will take place on post, while a portion of the route for the cycling will be off post. All competitors must have their own bicycles, and helmets are mandatory. "A triathlon sprint is great for those at the novice level, since it is not a full blown triathlon," said Mike Garcia, chief, Sports, Fitness, and Aquatics Branch. "This will just give them a taste of what a triathlon is like."

The competition is limited to the first 200 people to sign up. Sign ups are taking place now at Outdoor Recreation for the Tin Man and all other competitions which will be taking place over the three-day celebration. Stop by Outdoor Rec, across from the Shoppette parking lot, for more information.



McKiernan encourages homefront Soldiers to help, volunteer

Gen. David McKiernan
USAREUR Commanding General

Many of our Soldiers are deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and the Global War on Terrorism. Their absence is often stressful for their loved ones, and several families have asked for help.

Many organizations—including Army Community Service, chapels, Child and Youth Services, DoDDS schools, and youth service organizations—are available to support families of deployed Soldiers. These organizations, however, need volunteers to meet the increasing number of requests for assistance.

I ask all Soldiers in the European theater to help the families of deployed Soldiers by volunteering their time and assistance. Every Soldier can help, whether by coaching a youth sports team, serving as a youth service organization leader, running an errand for an overburdened neighbor, or providing transportation for a family in need.

In addition to the service it provides to those in need,

volunteerism provides tremendous personal satisfaction to the volunteer. By sharing our time and skills with others, we become part of something bigger than ourselves. We also learn a lot and grow from the experience. Because of this, our support, energy, and dedication can make a difference in someone's life as well as our own.

Volunteerism is an investment in our communities and the people who live in them. Do something positive for yourself and your community—volunteer!

Please visit your Army Volunteer Corps coordinator for more details. Stop by Army Community Services in the Davis Family Readiness Center or call 634-7500 for more information on volunteering.



Gen. David McKiernan



Thank You Volunteers

In celebration of National Volunteer Week the chairman of volunteers for the American Red Cross in Vicenza and a volunteer with the Army Community Service program cut the first slice during a cake-cutting ceremony held at Davis Family Readiness Center April 24. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer in the Vicenza military community, stop by Army Community Services or the American Red Cross in the Davis Family Readiness Center or call 634-7500. (Photo by Spc. Justin Nieto, SETAF Public Affairs)

Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge opens to youth from all services

MWR Marketing
IMA-Europe

To demonstrate support for families of deployed service members from all branches of military service, IMA-Europe will offer spaces in this summer's Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge sessions to middle and high school youth from all services, IMA-E officials announced Thursday.

Youth whose deployed active duty parent is serving in the Navy or Marines are eligible to apply along with their peers who have a parent in the Army or Air Force, to attend Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge on a space-available basis. Spaces will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis for the four one-week camp sessions. The eligibility criteria, is that the active duty

parent must be currently deployed, returned from deployment or deploying in the near future.

IMA-Europe Morale, Welfare and Recreation is hosting Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge; the acronym A.R.M.Y. stands for Adventure, Resilience, Memories, Youth. The camps will offer youth the chance to get away for a week of traditional camp fun as well as the chance to meet other children facing the same challenges of having a military parent deployed. All camp sessions will include activities to help campers develop strategies to cope with the stresses associated with deployment.

Middle school and high school students whose active-duty Army, Air Force, Navy or Marine parent is deployed between June 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, are eligible to apply.

Camp sessions for grades 6-8 will

be held July 9-15 and July 23-29 at Camp Darby, Italy. Camp sessions for grades 9-12 will be at Grafenwoehr, Germany, June 18-24 and Aug. 13-19; the high school camp sessions will not conflict with either the Summer Hire program or high school sports team's practices.

The only cost is a \$50 camp registration fee which will be charged only when a camper is selected to attend. Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge will not fund any air or individualized transportation. Transportation to all camps will be provided from the centralized bus pick-up points in Germany and Italy. Complete Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge information and the application form are available online at www.mwr-europe.com. The deadline to apply is Friday.

Community Action Council

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

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

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

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

The next CAC will be May 24 beginning at 9 a.m. in the Ederle Theater.

Issue: School Meal Program – In regards to “over due accounts for school lunch,”

my son couldn't pay for lunch even though he had money in his pocket. The school gave him a sandwich, and the school didn't send a letter home stating that the account was overdue at \$6.50. Also, the account is only \$1.20, and there are a lot of mistakes on several other accounts.

Response from AAFES: First we would like to apologize for the inconvenience this situation has caused. AAFES will ensure this does not happen to any child again. The system we are currently using is new. This is a learning experience for AAFES as well.

If you have an account that is low or below the balance, your child may pay in cash. Our school feeding staff has been retrained on how to manage cash transactions.

When an account is getting low, the school feeding staff sends a notification to the parents through the student's teacher. If the account goes below zero, the school feeding staff will provide three regular lunches. After the third lunch, the student will be given a sandwich until the account is paid.

We encourage parents to check their balances at the school feeding and the cash cage on a regular basis.

For the next school year, in order to avoid extra work for the teachers and ensure paper notifications are not lost, we are looking at the possibility of sending emails to the parents with low or negative balances.

Issue: Shuttle Bus – Can the shuttle bus run during lunch?

Response from the Directorate of Logistics: A few positive aspects should this request be approved will include the fact that the basic schedule does not change so we do not have to re-educate the public. The driver will change his departure time on one run, leaving 10 minutes earlier. This action does not add additional runs to the schedule. The driver still takes lunch at 11:45 a.m., then makes the final 12:45 p.m. run from Caserma Ederle to outlying areas as previously scheduled and completes his shift.

Some potential problems should this request be honored, include the fact that if too many family members get on in Villaggio, there will not be enough seats for the host nation workers for whom the run is authorized. In the case of there not being enough seats for all workers from Torri and Lerino, the driver would have to call the TMP and ask for an additional bus. An additional driver may not be available. If it is required to call the TMP for an additional bus, this would delay the workers from getting to lunch and thus delay their return to work.

If this course of action is acceptable, we will begin a one-month trial run to see how many Villaggio passengers use the 10:50 a.m. bus, determine if there is a seating problem from too many family members riding the bus at that time which could interfere with movement of host nation workers to lunch, and then decide at the end of the trial period whether the route should be retained or deleted. At the end of the trial period, if it is shown no one uses the 10:50 a.m. service

on a regular basis, we would return to the original schedule.

To maximize available seating, the largest of our buses, a 44 passenger bus, would be used for this run.

Issue: Parking for Expectant Mothers – After 28 weeks, expecting mothers receive parking decals stating that they can park in the “Expectant Mothers” parking spaces. MP's aren't checking for the “Expectant Mother” parking decals.

Response from the Directorate of Emergency Services: The MPs issued 20 tickets to personnel parking in the Expected Mothers stalls without the proper decal during the month of March.

Issue: Motorcycle Equipment – Can AAFES provide motorcycle equipment?

Response from AAFES: Thanks for your question. Our AAFES Services Division is in contact with a vendor that would like to sell this merchandise in our mall entrance under the short term agreement program. We are hoping that the motorcycle vendor will be able to sell on a regular schedule. The first scheduled selling period will be May 2-5. If customer utilization is well received, we will start selling this type of merchandise on a permanent basis in our Car Care Center. We are also exploring online or catalog provisions for this type of merchandise.

The CAC will be hosted at the Ederle Theater on May 24 at 9 a.m.

HAZARDOUS RECALL

Hewlett-Packard voluntarily recalling notebook computer batteries

AAFES
News Release

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with Hewlett-Packard of Palo Alto, Calif. is voluntarily recalling HP and Compaq Notebook Computer Battery Packs.

Name of product: HP and Compaq Notebook Computer Batteries. Manufactured in China

Units: About 4,100 (about 15,700 batteries worldwide)

Hazard: An internal short can cause the battery cells to overheat and melt or char the plastic case, posing a burn and fire hazard.

Incidents/Injuries: HP has received 20 reports of batteries overheating, including two in the United States. One minor injury has been reported. Eleven cases of minor property damage were reported, including one in the U.S.

Description: The recalled lithium ion rechargeable batteries are used with various HP and Compaq notebook computers. The recalled batteries are a subset of those manufactured between January 1-10, 2005, and have a bar code label starting with L3. HP and Compaq Notebook Model series that may contain a recalled battery include:

HP Pavilion Family	HP Compaq Family	Compaq Presario Family
dv1xxxze2xxx	nx48xx	V2xxxM2xxx

Batteries that have bar code numbers starting with L3 must be verified through the program Web site at:
www.hp.com/support/BatteryReplacement.



Sold at: AAFES, national and regional computer and electronic stores, online stores, hp.com and hpshopping.com from January 2005 through December 2005.

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the "L3" coded batteries immediately and contact HP to determine if the specific battery is one of the ones being recalled and if it is, receive a free replacement battery. After removing the recalled battery for their notebook computer, consumers should plug in the AC adapter to power the notebook until a replacement battery arrives.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, visit the HP Battery Replacement program Web site at www.hp.com/support/BatteryReplacement or contact HP at (888) 202-4320 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. CT Monday through Friday.

USAREUR staff gets look at future of Army business

USAREUR Public Affairs
News Release

HEIDELBERG, Germany—More than 250 members of the United States Army, Europe got a peek at the future of doing business in the Army during a Lean Six Sigma overview.

Lean Six Sigma is a significant part of the Army's business transformation initiative, supporting improvements across all major commands and functions.

Those goals, the Army's top priorities, were spelled out in an October 2005 memo from the Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Peter Schoomaker.

They are; to win the long war while sustaining the all-volunteer force, accelerate the future combat force strategy, and accelerate business transformation and process improvement.

"Everything the Army does must align with the strategic goals as defined by the Army leadership," said Joseph W. Albright, director for enterprise solutions for the office of the deputy undersecretary of the army for business transformation, during the brief.

The goal of process improvement and business transformation will use Lean Six Sigma, a synergy of two concepts.

Lean is primarily concerned with eliminating waste and improving flow in business operations, according to Elizabeth Beatty, USAREUR G-8, Office of the Comptroller.

Six Sigma is a method to reduce variance in the quality and speed of services and products.

The combined process encourages people to think critically about what they do and how they do it, Albright said.

Michael A. Kirby, deputy undersecretary of the Army for business transformation, described LSS as a tool to help get the right people, on the right problems, with the right metrics, and the right

leadership to bring problems to a successful conclusion.

"Lean Six Sigma is a proven business practice to solve complex problems, breaking these problems down into discrete processes, and focusing on end results," Kirby said.

"We are employing this to make the Army more capable of generating the combat power the nation requires," Kirby added. "USAREUR is a key part of this roll-out."

The near-term targeted processes that LSS will address include; property management, contracting, civilian

"The methodologies have proven over the last 20 years that it is possible to achieve dramatic and positive results in cost, quality, and time by focusing on process improvement," Beatty said.

According to Albright, the senior Army leadership is convinced of its worth and are hands-on involved and committed to change.

"We know the Army is effective, we win wars and get the job done," said Jack Van Den Beldt, USAREUR Lean Six Sigma deployment manager.

"Effective does not always mean efficient," Van Den Beldt said, "That is why we are introducing LSS, to become better stewards of taxpayer dollars."

As a practical example, Van Den Beldt said, 21st Theater Support Command is evaluating the Humvee reset line at the General Support Center, Europe, to improve efficiency.

"I think the entire force needs to look at this as an opportunity for achieving efficiency in business," said Lt. Col. Dave Fulton, USAREUR G-1, Office of Personnel. "It's going to require professional development to develop a culture of continuous improvement."

Lean was developed by Toyota based upon the efficiency theories of statistician, Dr. W. Edwards Deming. Six Sigma is a system developed by Motorola to reduce variance in quality and speed, said Beatty.

"It defines, measures, analyzes, improves and controls any process yield by following a problem-solving approach using statistical tools," she added. "Used together, these two processes can result in significant cost avoidance and savings for any organization."

For more information on Lean Six Sigma, visit the Department of the Undersecretary of the Army Web site, www.army.mil/aeioo/cpi/tools.htm, or the Continuous Process Improvement Web site, www.army.mil/aeioo/cpi/.

Everything the Army does must align with the strategic goals as defined by the Army leadership.

Joseph W. Albright
Director, Enterprise Solutions
Deputy Undersecretary of the Army for Business Transformation Office

human resources, military construction, reimbursable repair funding, information technology portfolio management, personnel security investigations, planning and mobilization, military recruiting, and medical capabilities.

The Lean Six Sigma system is not new, said Beatty.

"It defines, measures, analyzes, improves and controls any process yield by following a problem-solving approach using statistical tools," she explained. "Used together, they can result in significant cost avoidance and savings for any organization," she said.

Quartermaster Laundry Pickup Point Community Announcement

The Vicenza Quartermaster Laundry Pickup Point prices per item have increased. Some of the changes are: no press cash customer \$2.35; medium and high press cash customer \$2.65; and non-cash (MIPER) customers no press \$.90, medium \$1.40, and high press \$1.85.

The QM Laundry has discontinued dry cleaning services. As an alternative, the AAFES Pickup Point, located near the post laundromat, is available to service the Vicenza military community with dry cleaning service. All efforts were made to keep dry cleaning services and to keep prices at a minimum, but the total cost to operate the facility and the work accomplished has not proven cost effective.

For a complete list of the QM Laundry price changes, stop by their location near the Hall of Heros. There is also a price list posted on their door.

Spring Clean-Up

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

Recycling Information

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

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

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

The Outlook

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SETAF Commander
Maj. Gen. Jason Kamiya

USAG Vicenza Commander and Publisher
Col. Virgil S. L. Williams

Editor
Kelli Covlin

71-7000, fax 0444-71-7543.
Email: editor@setaf.army.mil
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The Toppers

Soldiers' Theatre takes two TOP awards in Europe competition

By Ross Daniels
Soldiers' Theatre Director
Photos by Martin Greeson

Over 650 people attended the Installation Management Agency - Europe "Topper" awards ceremony held April 22 at the Patrick Henry Pavilion in Heidelberg, Germany, highlighting the winners in this year's



Pvt. James Kever, winner of Best Debut Performance in a Musical, returns to the stage to accept an award for Pfc. Michael Kimball, who won Best Chorus Member. Awarding the Topper is Ginger Heath, the co-chair of the National Theater Festival 2007.

European Tournament of Plays festival.

Ninety-two Topper statues were awarded in 66 categories from make-up, lighting, and set design to best actress, director and production. Twenty-three different theatre productions competed in the tournament, and the awards recognized outstanding achievements in all aspects of music and theatre programs presented throughout Europe during the festival cycle.

Soldiers' Theatre received 18 nominations in a variety of tournament categories to include Best Musical, Best Ensemble, Best Orchestra and Best Director. They did not walk away empty handed, receiving two Topper awards for performances in their production of "Pippin."

Pvt. James Kever took home top honors as Best Debut Performance in a Musical and Pfc. Michael Kimball won Best Chorus Member.

"Pippin" Director Bonnie Daniels received a special U.S. Army Entertainment Award – the James T. Martin Award for Lifetime Achievement – presented by IMA-EURO Region Director Russell B. Hall during the ceremony.

Maj. Gen. Jason Kamiya, SETAF commanding general, and Annette Evans, director, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, were among the Vicenza awards presenters at the ceremony.

The following is a list of Soldiers' Theatre Tournament of Plays nominations:

Best Musical, Best Ensemble, & Best Orchestra for "Pippin"

Best Director for Bonnie Daniels
Best Musical Director for Aaron Talley and Massimo Donadello
Best Musical Accompanist for Massimo Donadello
Best Choreography for Linda Dahlstrom
Best Lighting Design and Technical Direction for Ross Daniels



"Pippin" Director Bonnie Daniels receives a special U.S. Army Entertainment Award, the James T. Martin Award for Lifetime Achievement, from IMA-EURO Region Director Russell B. Hall during the ceremony.

Best Lighting Design for John Beamish
Best Stage Manager for Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Jordan
Best Actor for Aaron Talley
Best Supporting Actress for Karen Hornstein
Best Supporting Actor for Eric Grosshans
Best Featured Actor in a Minor Role for Chris Wolff
Best Chorus Member for Jamie Kamiya
Best Instrumentalist for Spc. Nicholas Anderson

Pregnancy, postpartum PT program available for female Soldiers

Lesley Gomez
USAG Vicenza Health Promotion Coordinator

The purpose of the Pregnancy/Postpartum Physical Training Program is to provide unit commanders with a standardized and safe program for pregnant and postpartum Soldiers and to train unit physical training personnel in pregnancy and postpartum fitness.

How the program works:

- Soldier is confirmed pregnant and provided PPPT enrollment package.
- Soldier presents profile and PPPT enrollment package to commander.
- Commander counsels Soldier and signs enrollment, counseling and Family Care Plan forms.
- Unit will provide last record APFT scorecard as a part of the PPPT enrollment.
- Soldier reports with required and signed documentation to Health Promotion coordinator's office in building 169 to enroll.
- Health promotion coordinator will have Soldier go to occupational health to schedule brief.
- Health promotion coordinator will pass information to administrative assistant to add Soldier to PPPT database.
- Soldier reports daily to 6:30 a.m. formation until delivery.



- Excused absences include: signed leave form (DA31) or sick call slip (DD689), delivery, convalescent leave, quarters, doctor appointments, authorized leave, authorized pass from unit, and all federal and training holidays.

- Following convalescent leave, the unit will enforce the Soldier's return to postpartum PPPT program.

- Postpartum Soldier will participate in monthly diagnostic APFT to monitor program effectiveness.

- Soldier will be formally disenrolled approximately six months postpartum.

Physical Fitness training will take place Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30-7:30 a.m. On Tuesdays, from 7:45 to 8:45 a.m., Soldiers will receive classroom instruction in the Vicenza Health Clinic classroom. The classes will cover a variety of health issues ranging from maternal care, to labor, and family care planning.

In case of miscarriage, Soldier will be considered special profile and will follow guidance given by the health clinic. Every case will be determined on an individual basis. Soldier must receive one-on-one counseling with health care provider to determine profile and level of participation in either PPPT or PT.

Commanders and program manager will be informed of Soldier status via email through daily, weekly and/or monthly reports provided by the administrative assistant.

For more information contact the USAG Vicenza Health Promotion Office at 634-8828.

Parent to Parent program eases school transitions for children

Military Child Education Coalition
News Release

The Military Child Education Coalition, a non-profit organization, contracting with the Department of the Army, promotes partnerships between military installations and their supporting school districts.

Fact or Fiction: All parents know what to do when transferring schools, districts, states or countries? (what papers they will need, shots to have, letters to hand carry and more).

Answer: In many cases it is fiction.

Good news. The MCEC Vicenza Parent to Parent cadre is a team with personal experience, specifically trained in the preparation for transition, separation, and the reality of change for the military-connected child in addition to academic support systems.

The following presentations are available free to Vicenza organizations:

Chart Your Course – Planning a successful journey through high school (comes with an excellent CD resource).

Portfolios – Describes what is included in a child's school portfolio, from pre-school through high school.

Parent Teacher Conferences – How to prepare, hints on what to ask the teacher.

Homework Strategies – Ease the stress for parent and child.

Ranges of Ability – Which classes should my child take?

Choosing your Child's School – What are the options and which placement is best?

For those who are moving this spring, Parent to Parent has scheduled presentations every Thursday evening in the Vicenza High School Media Center from 5:15-6 p.m. Topics addressed will include: portfolios; questions for new schools and teachers; opportunities to explore new school's Web site and the MCEC Web site (which has many valuable resources); and information on the Interactive Counseling Center, a forum to interact "live" with the new school personnel or a student.

For more information, contact Parent to Parent at 348-079-5480 or via email at parent2parent@setaf.army.mil.

New civilian personnel system begins first phase

By Kathleen T. Rhem

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON—The first phase of the new National Security Personnel System is ready to launch April 30. "Spiral 1.1" includes 11,000 Defense Department civilian employees throughout the United States.

"The most important message is that we are ready," Mary E. Lacey, NSPS program executive officer, said. "Employees are trained, supervisors are trained, leaders are leaning forward, and we're ready to go."

Lacey explained that employees in the first group to enter the program "have been working on performance standards that are outcome-based and measurable so that as they go into NSPS they will know what performance is expected of them right from the beginning."

Most preparation for the program's implementation has dealt with training employees and supervisors. Both groups have had extensive Web-based and classroom instruction on the ins and outs of the new program, Lacey said.

Lacey spoke to American Forces Press Service via telephone from Kansas City, Kansas, where she had been meeting with some of the first spiral's employees at nearby Fort Riley. She has spent considerable time and will be spending more time meeting with employees in the first spiral in such far-flung locations as Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, as well as in several agencies in the Washington, D.C., area.

Another senior official in Lacey's agency traveled to Hawaii to meet with Army and Navy employees in the first spiral.

"I am trying to get out to see as many of the 1.1 organizations as I possibly can," Lacey said. "It's part of the communications initiative to give them an opportunity to speak to the senior leadership of the department, answer any questions they may have, explain to them some of the philosophy behind the changes and to thank them for all their efforts to get ready for NSPS."

"I think it's important for folks to be able to ask one on one

why we're doing things and for me to answer any questions," she added.

Lacey said that "enthusiasm and excitement of the workforce is very high" in places she's visited, but added that many employees are concerned about their supervisors' ability to fairly evaluate performance.

"This is not unexpected. Most of the department has been effectively on a pass-fail system for quite a while, so this is new," she said. "And that's one of the reasons we've spent so much time training employees and supervisors on performance management."

She said she reassures employees that supervisors have received extensive training in performance management and that multiple leaders will be involved in the performance-evaluation process.

Program officials originally planned to include about 60,000 employees in Spiral 1.1, but several factors, including ongoing litigation over collective-

bargaining rules, contributed to the need to curtail that number. Lacey explained that officials reconstituted the group so it included only nonbargaining-unit employees. The number also had to be cut because of delays in implementation brought about by the legal issues.

"Once we got the judge's decision, we only had a limited amount of time and it was a throughput issue on the training," Lacey said. "We didn't want to shortchange any of the training."

A few pay-related aspects of the program employees may not be aware of are the initial within-grade buy-in and the local market supplement.

Employees being transitioned into NSPS will receive the next step increase due to them in the old GS system prorated for the amount of time that is left until they would be due the pay increase.

What is called locality pay in the existing personnel pay system will now be called "local market supplement" under NSPS. This is a percentage over base pay based on geography, Lacey explained. She said the system will use the same scales the rest of government uses for now, but this may change to a system

based on specific jobs if officials feel they need help with recruiting and retaining hard-to-fill specialties.

NSPS officials want employees to know that they will be closely monitoring the program's implementation to immediately deal with any problems that may arise during the transition.

"We will be monitoring how these 1.1 activities do and continue to keep the lines of communication open with the senior leadership and employees so that we get early indicators if there's any difficulties, so we can look at it and determine if it's a training need or if it is a systemic thing that needs to be tweaked," Lacey said.

She also noted that the evaluation results will be made available to employees. "That openness has been our philosophy with NSPS right from the beginning," she said. "They deserve to see how it's going."

The most important message is that we are ready. Employees are trained, supervisors are trained, leaders are leaning forward, and we're ready to go.

Mary E. Lacey
NSPS Program Executive Officer

101 Days of Summer Fun, free bowling for youth

Morale, Welfare and Recreation

IMA-Europe

From Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day, children at 74 Army installations will be invited to bowl 101 free games and to enter for a chance to win some really cool prizes. The promotion is being offered by the U.S. Army Community & Family Support Center to attract youth in grades K-12 to Army bowling centers and to introduce them to the sport of bowling.

A great line-up of sponsors and prizes will make this a very exciting promotion. Hollywood Records is sponsoring one of two grand prizes – a trip for the winner and three guests to an Aly & AJ concert. (Of course, one of those guests must be the parent or legal guardian of the winner.)

The second grand prize, sponsored by Walden Media and New Line Cinema, is a private screening party for the winner and 100 friends to see the movie "How to Eat Fried Worms." The party will include the film, sodas and snacks, and some fun contests and prizes.

The third major sponsor is THQ – one of the fastest growing video game publishers in the world; providing 200 Bratz, SpongeBob Squarepants and WWE Smackdown Raw video games to be used as local prizes.

"Since our sponsors are all in the entertainment business," said Shirley Kappa, CFSC Events Division, "we have added other prizes that should appeal to our young audience." Every participating bowling center will also award a portable DVD player and an iPod Shuffle at the end of the summer.

Beginning on May 27, children can pick up their free game card at participating bowling centers, including the Ederle Lanes here on Caserma Ederle. Every day, all summer long, they will be entitled to one free game with one paid game of bowling. Their card will be stamped and will serve as their entry form for local prizes and the grand prize drawings.

"They don't have to bowl to enter the drawings," Kappa said. "However, they miss out on a lot of fun and 101 free games if they don't take advantage of this special offer."

According to Kappa, when it comes time for the local prize drawings around Labor Day weekend, the card with the most games bowled will have 1st choice of the local prizes available.

Visit the Ederle Lanes bowling alley, near the post fitness center, for more information.

Army children launch communication Web site

By Steven Donald Smith

American Forces Press Service

Children of U.S. Soldiers spearheaded a project to launch a Web site that enables Army youth around the world to communicate with each other.

The "Real Teens Connected" Web site, which went live this winter, is a product of the Army's Child and Youth Services Army Teen Panel, and is geared toward teenagers 13-18 years old. The site offers a variety of services to all Army-affiliated youth, including news updates, relocation information and stories written by Army children.

"Kids want to connect with other kids who are in like situations," Pamela Tomlinson, deputy director of the Army's Child and Youth Services, said. "The idea was a Web site that would focus on linking all teens, regardless of military component, in a venue they are all familiar with and like to use, which is the Internet."

A secure online chat room and bulletin board will soon be added. "The reason we wanted to incorporate a secure chat room and a bulletin board is to create a safe site where the teens can talk to each other," said Donna McGrath, a sports and fitness program manager for the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center and senior adult adviser for the Army Teen Panel.

The Web site will allow the teens to express "what it's like to be the child of a military person, and just talk about what's going on with them," McGrath said. "It is absolutely youth led."

The idea for the Web site was spawned when Army Teen Panel members came together and realized they needed a way to better communicate with each other. After determining the Internet was the best method to do this, they brought the idea to the adults, Tomlinson said.

After the adults agreed about the merits of the project, the teens created a mission statement and marketing plan and designed the registration process, she said.

"It's a youth-generated, adult-mentored process that the Army Teen Panel undertook over a period of little less than a year - to develop and come up with a marketing plan and talk about goals and objectives," Tomlinson said.

The Real Teens Connected project had a "soft launch" at this year's Army Family Action Plan Conference in January, she said, and will be rolled out with more fanfare this month.

The Real Teens Connected Web page is hosted through the Boys and Girls Club of America YouthNet Web site, www.bgcyouthnet.org — first-time users must register there before accessing the Real Teen Connected page. Returning users then just click on the "Army Teens" menu tab and type their user name and password to enter. Eligible youths must also have an Army Knowledge Online account that is sponsored through a parent or guardian.

The goal is to have 18,000 kids register on the Web site over the next six months and to eventually move the site up to the Defense Department level, where children of all services and DoD civilians can communicate, Tomlinson said.



Liberation Ceremony
Col. Salvatore Bordonaro, Caserma Ederle Italian Base Commander, (second in line) and Col. Bradley Harper, commander, Vicenza Health Clinic, (fourth in line) march with other representatives during a liberation ceremony April 25 in Vicenza's Piazza dei Signori celebrating Italy's Liberation in 1945 from their fascist government. (Photo by Sgt. Tara Teel, SETAF Public Affairs)

Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

Giro d'Italia

Giro d'Italia will take place May 6-28 and is the Italian version of the Tour de France. Twenty-two dedicated teams of professional cyclists compete in a three-week long race for the "pink shirt," the chosen symbol of victory.

Starting in Seraving, Belgium, the race then criss-crosses the length and breadth of the Italian peninsula and finishes in Milan. The event will be televised on Italian national TV. Visit the Web site (in Italian or French) www.gazzetta.it and click on "Giro d'Italia" found on your left.

Medieval event

In the town of Lazise, located on Lake Garda, a medieval event will take place on May 7. Activities start at 10 a. m. with a historical parade through the main streets where you will see knights with their damsels, musicians and street artists. Main events taking place will reenact around the period that King Ottone II of Germany was in Italy – from 973 to when he died in 983 near Rome.

Antique-flea market in Venice

This antique-flea-market by nonprofessionals is the only antiques and second-hand market selling books, comics, prints and other objects for collectors entirely organized by nonprofessionals.

It will be held in the *campi* and *campielli* close to one of the most astonishing church of Venice, the Church of the Miracles on May 7.

The market can also turn into an opportunity to visit this church, built between 1481 and 1489 on the basis of a design by Pietro Lombardo. The church hosted an image of the *Vergine Tra Due Santi Virgin*, Between Two Saints, produced in 1408, which people said performed miracles and over time became an object of profound devotion.

The external facade of the church is decorated with marble polychromy with fake arches and a gallery. The interior is composed of just one nave with a bold staircase

which leads to the alter, where you can see the beauty of the statues, the marble and the architecture of Pietro Lombardo. The ceiling is wooden and was made in the 16th century, while the walls and the floors are decorated with colored marble and bas-reliefs.

Strawberry & Asparagus Festival

The town of Gardigiano, province of Scorze', will hold their 30th *Festa della Fragola e dell'Asparago* May 5-14. On May 7 at 9 a.m. the events begin when the strawberry and asparagus exhibition opens. Throughout the day bands will play and rides for children and food tents open in the afternoon and evening.

Marathons

Trieste's marathon, to be held on May 7, is one of the city's major events. It's run on the area's panoramic roads and is considered one of the finest races in the whole of Europe. The marathon has three sections; the European Marathon (42,195 kilometers), the Two Castles European Half Marathon (21,097 kilometers), and the Bavisela Non-competitive Race. They all start from different places in the city. Last year, the three events altogether had a record of 9,500 participants.

There are specific rule and regulations, as well as registration for the races. The maximum time allowed to run is 5 hours, 30 minutes. Full information and registration is available at www.bavisela.it in English.

The 7th International Marathon of Custoza, province of Sommacampagna, will be held on May 14 with a start time of 8:30 a.m. from Villa Venier. Registration fees are: per couple - 30 euro and single - 20 euro. This marathon is open to people 18 years old and older. There are other non-competitive runs of 6, 11 and 21 kilometers. Registration closes on May 13. Visit their Web site, www.maratonadelcustoza.it, which is only in Italian but easily understandable.

Safari & Park

The Safari and Faunistico Park are located between Bussolengo and Pastrengo, province of Verona. On the safari the entrance is by car or bus only and will take just over an hour to visit.

A visit to the park, on foot, will take just over two hours. Apart from the animals, also find an aquarium, a tropical conservatory and a dinosaur park. Tickets cost: 11 euro for the safari and 10 euro for the park or 15,50 euro to visit both for people 12 years of age or older; 9 euro for the safari and 8 euro for the park or 12,50 euro for both for children 3 to 12 years old.

Open every day in May through October from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. For more information and directions visit www.parconaturaviva.it.

African Museum

The *Museo Africano*, African Museum, in Verona was founded by the Combonian Missionaries in 1938 to highlight the materials and items which had been collected during their missions. The materials show the culture and daily life of the African populations. In 1996 the display area was radically changed. From a classical ethnographical museum, which stood out for its interesting but rather sterile displays, it was made into a center for communication and intercultural dialogue. Thanks to radical restructuring and the use of modern multimedia techniques, the museum now offers a positive and unusual picture of the African continent. Located on Vicolo Pozzo, it is open Tuesday-Saturday 9 a.m.-noon and 3-6 p.m. Sunday 3-7 p.m. Closed Mondays. Entrance fee is 4 euro.

Alpini Rally in Vicenza

Vicenza is having their own Alpini rally on May 12-13. For this occasion museums and exhibition halls will be open from 8-11:30 p.m. with no entrance fees. Enjoy the Teatro Olimpico, Palazzo Chiericati, Santa Corona Church, the Basilica Palladiana and others. On May 12 at 9 p.m. in the main square the

CoriAlpini, Alpini Choir, will perform. On May 13 at 4 p.m. there will be an Alpini parade starting at Viale Roma and going through the main streets of the town. At 9:30 p.m. enjoy jazz star Diane Schuur in the main square. Entrance is free. Also find many of the downtown stores open until midnight.

The Alpini rally in Asiago, where over 300,000 Alpini participants are

expected will take place May 13-14.

Notes for your calendar

In the city of Ravenna, in the *Pala de Andre* Theater, the New York Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Lorin Maazel will perform on June 17 and on June 18 will be conducted by Riccardo Muti.

Now Showing

Caserna Ederle Theater

May 2	Something New (PG13)	7 p.m.
May 3	Final Destination 3 (R)	7 p.m.
May 4	When A Stranger Calls (PG13)	7 p.m.
May 5	Firewall (PG13)	7 p.m.
May 6	The Shaggy Dog (PG)	4 p.m.
	The Pink Panther (PG)	9:30 p.m.
May 7	Curious George (G)	4 p.m.
	The Shaggy Dog (PG)	7 p.m.
May 8	CLOSED	
May 9	The Pink Panther (PG)	7 p.m.

Camp Darby Theater

May 4	Firewall (PG13)	6 p.m.
May 5	16 Blocks (R)	6 p.m.
May 6	Curious George (G)	2 p.m.

Movie Synopsis

THE PINK PANTHER - *Steve Martin, Beyonce' Knowles* - A world-famous soccer coach has been murdered and his priceless, legendary ring has been stolen—a ring set with the stunning diamond known as the "Pink Panther." The French government needs a master detective to solve the crime and recover the gem—but he's not available, so they recruit none other than Inspector Jacques Clouseau.

THE SHAGGY DOG - *Tim Allen, Kristin Davis* - Dave learns a valuable lesson about truth and appearances when quite unexpectedly he finds himself changed into a sheepdog.

CURIOS GEORGE - *Will Ferrell, Drew Barrymore* - The adventures of Curious George, the inquisitive little guy with an insatiable taste for adventure. George's spunky and fun-loving nature endears him to new friends, but also lands him in a series of (mis-) adventures.

FIREWALL - *Harrison Ford, Paul Bettany* - Jack is a bank security expert, whose specialty is designing infallible theft-proof financial computer systems. But there's a hidden vulnerability in the system he didn't account for - himself. When a ruthless criminal mastermind kidnaps his family, Jack is forced to find a flaw in his system and steal \$100 million. With the lives of his wife and children at stake and under constant surveillance he has only hours to find a loophole in the thief's own impenetrable system of subterfuge and false identities to beat him at his own game.

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.



Motorcycle Safety Courses

Classroom dates are scheduled for (Mondays): May 15, May 22, June 12, and June 26 starting at 3:30 p.m. in the Golden Lion. Range dates (Wednesdays) are scheduled for : May 17, May 24, June 14, and June 28 beginning at 8:30 a.m. and are conducted at the fairgrounds area near the Villaggio Housing area, in front of Hotel Aries. You must have a valid stateside driver's license with motorcycle endorsement on it. You must have at least two years of stateside motorcycle driving experience. You can sign up for the following week's class and range anytime from Tuesday through Monday morning, prior to the beginning of class. All class dates are tentative, pending a 5-6 participant minimum and availability of motorcycle rider instructor.

Note: Soldiers returning from deployment must come in for retraining prior to driving again, those caught driving who have not received retraining can be prosecuted by the Provost Marshall.

Students participate in the range portion of the Motorcycle Safety Course in March. (Photo by Sgt. Tara Teel, SETAF Public Affairs)

Ederle Winner



An Ederle Inn front desk agent helps Lt. Col. Stephen Vallejos with his checking in procedures. Right: The 2006 Army Lodging Operation Award on display at the front desk.



Story and photos by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

Two of the three Army lodges in Europe that received 2006 Army Lodging Operation of the Year (LOYA) awards are located in Italy. Casa Toscana at U.S. Army Garrison Livorno won in the small category while the Vicenza Ederle Inn placed first in the large category.

"We received the award at the end of March, and I was pleasantly shocked" said Gary Hyde, Ederle Inn manager.

The annual competition recognizes lodging operations Army-wide basing judging on how the Army Lodging standards are met in terms of operations, services and facilities.

"It is the fourth time that the hotel has won, and the employees know what the standards are and they work for those standards every day whether the LOYA team is coming or not," continued Hyde.

In fact the Ederle Inn competed and won twice in 1995 and 1998, the medium category of Lodging Operation of the Year Award.

After the hotel underwent a 48-room expansion, it won the 2003 LOYA again – this time in the large-size hotel category. Currently, the facility consists of 15 three-bedroom apartments, 100 guest rooms, and two two-room suites.

Hyde also explained that about 45 American and Italian employees make up the current lodging staff whether they are busy at the front desk accommodating travelers or keeping the rooms clean for the customers that right now reach more than 90 percent occupancy.

As part of a renovation that will start this coming fall, the Ederle Inn is going to convert part of the existing rooms into two-



The staff of the Ederle Inn pose for a group photo. Right: Employees make up the bed in one of the guest rooms.



A gardener at the Ederle Inn for the past nine years spruces up flowers at the entrance. He also takes care of the area around the facility and last year he planted about 1,500 tulips in the nearby flowerbeds. Center: Some tulips among other flowers embellish the flowerbeds. Left: A housekeeper vacuums one of the rooms.



room suites to make it more comfortable for families that are PCSing here and may stay a few months in the hotel while house-hunting.

There will also be an addition, which will include almost 60 two-room suites.

"I think it is great honor for the hotel and a big reward for the employees to see what all the work over the past two years has accomplished," said Hyde. "WE won it. There is no singular individual in here that did it by themselves, especially me. All the employees did it every day. And they continue to meet those standards today, which they met yesterday before the award. We will continue to do that."



Outside view of the Ederle Inn

For any information on Vicenza lodging, call 634-8034 or commercial 0444-71-8034 or email at ederleinn@setaf.army.mil

