



The Outlook

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U.S. Army Garrisons Vicenza & Livorno

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Air Force teaches Army ins, outs of air transport

Story and photo by Sgt. Justin Nieto
SETAF Public Affairs

The Air Force paid a visit to Soldiers of the 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team, teaching them the ins and outs of how to properly load their equipment for air transportation.

"We're here to show them how to get what they need from where it is now, to where it needs to go," said Senior Airman Marc Warman, an air transportation journeyman with the 724th Air Mobility Squadron, based in Aviano.

Warman explained that, while the Soldiers fly to their deployment location, their equipment travels separately; but before the unit's equipment can be shipped through the air, it needs to meet certain requirements.

"If a shipment of cargo is not measured correctly by a unit, not properly tied down, and so on, it

can actually down an aircraft," said Warman. "That's something we, of course, don't want happening."

Warman stated this training is essential for deploying troops because their equipment is critical to mission success and needs to be at its destination on time.

"We do this training every time there is a troop movement, as in deployment, to make sure the guys know the standard," said Warman.

Warman said the unit will send a representative to what is called the "joint inspection" who corrects any deficiencies in the packaging of the unit's equipment. Once corrections, if any, are made, the gear is good to go out to the unit once they arrive in theater.

"It is always a pleasure to work alongside other branches of the military as well," said Warman of the joint aspect of this training. "We are all in this together and it is a good feeling."



Franco Beraldo (left), load planner with the 724th Air Mobility Squadron based in Aviano, instructs Soldiers on some of the things she looks for when inspecting a generator during a joint inspection. The personnel from the squadron were here training the Soldiers due to their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

DoD, VA work to streamline transition for wounded troops

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - Combat-wounded troops have suffered enough from their injuries and shouldn't have to suffer more because of bureaucratic red tape, Veterans Affairs Secretary R. James Nicholson said.

Nicholson told American Forces Press Service he's encouraged by a new cooperative spirit he's seeing between the Defense Department and VA as they work to improve wounded troops' transition between the two departments.

The two agencies have been looking at

ways to make wounded troops' transition as smooth as possible, but the effort has accelerated since problems revealed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center focused more attention on support for wounded warriors.

"The events out at Walter Reed were unfortunate, but you know, out of a lot of bad can come a lot of good," Nicholson said.

President Bush directed Nicholson to establish the Interagency Task Force on returning Global War on Terrorism heroes to come up with ways the federal agencies can improve their support for wounded troops.

Talking with veterans at VA medical facilities, Nicholson said he's struck that they're "uniformly complimentary" of the health care they receive.

"But one of the things that drives them nuts is the bureaucracy, the red tape and the anxiety that comes, ... the unknowing, and how to do this, and where to go for that," he said. "And they shouldn't have to worry about that."

Nicholson said his task force is building on efforts already under way to streamline the transition process between DoD and VA.

"Our emphasis has always been on treatment, but process is important, too," he said. "We are looking at (the) process to see what the overlaps are. We're looking to see what redundancies there are and what we can cut out to make it easier for the veteran. I'm optimistic there are some things we can do."

Daniel Cooper, VA's undersecretary for benefits, described initiatives under way during testimony before the Senate Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs committees:

- Veterans Health Administration social workers and Veterans Benefits Administration counselors are assigned to 10 military treatment facilities, including Walter Reed. They help ensure wounded troops transitioning to VA medical facilities and the VA benefits system understand what's available to them and help them apply for benefits.

- Two outreach coordinators regularly visit Walter Reed and the National Naval Medical Center, at Bethesda, Md., to encourage wounded troops and their families to participate in VA-sponsored special events and help ease their transition.

- A VA-certified rehabilitation registered nurse is assigned to Walter Reed to help wounded troops and their families transition

to care though VA polytrauma rehabilitation centers.

- All VA regional offices maintain contact with military hospitals and VA medical centers in their jurisdictions to ensure prompt notification of the arrival, transfer and discharge of seriously wounded troops. Affected troops also receive pertinent VA contact information.

- Claims from servicemembers seriously disabled in Iraq or Afghanistan are case managed to ensure seamless and expeditious processing. Case managers track the claims and maintain a case history on each injured veteran throughout the claims process.

- VA is hiring 100 new transition patient advocates to serve as ombudsmen for severely-injured servicemembers and veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. These advocates, most veterans of the global war on terrorism themselves, will help wounded troops and their families throughout the transition process.

- Both VA and DoD are making progress in developing interoperable health technologies. Two key efforts are advances in the way electronic medical records are transferred between the two agencies and better information sharing before patients transfer to VA polytrauma centers for care.

- The two departments have agreed to begin working this year on a new DoD/VA joint electronic health records interoperability plan. The goal is to come up with a common inpatient electronic health record.

- VA will soon launch the Veterans Tracking Application, a system that will enable it to track wounded troops from the battlefield through Landstuhl Regional Medical Center to stateside military hospitals and on to the VA medical facility. VETA is a modified version of DoD's Joint Patient Tracking Application.

- The departments are working to expand VA access to DoD inpatient records, particularly for severely wounded troops being transferred to VA care.

Cooper told the senators the VA hopes to continue building on this cooperation. "The VA has worked hard to improve the transition process for our deserving servicemen and -women," Nicholson said. "Yet we are not satisfied that we have achieved all that is possible or can be done."

Information please

How to get the numbers you need

USAG Vicenza Public Affairs Office
Command Information

Community members who don't have access to official e-mail often find it frustrating when it comes to finding the telephone number for a specific office.

There are several ways to get help:

1. If you need directory assistance and have access to a DSN (official) telephone, dial '0' or 113 from any official phone.

2. If you are off post, dial 0444-71-7111. This will send you to the directory assistance operators. Please NOTE: When you dial this number, you will NOT hear the telephone ring. DO NOT HANG UP! The operator will answer the phone as soon as they can. The Switching Control Center is aware of this problem and is trying to fix it.

3. The USAG Web site: www.usag.vicenza.army.mil has listings and links to many of the most-requested telephone numbers, as does the Directorate of MWR Web site: www.vicenzamwr.com.

As a reminder, all numbers that have a 634 as the prefix may only be called from on post. To dial that number from off post, dial 0444-71 and then use the last four digits of the number.

Heating systems turned off on Caserma Ederle

Because of the warm weather, the Directorate of Public Works is turning off the heating systems on Caserma Ederle, this measure also coincides with the April 15 Italian law to turn off heating systems.

This will help reduce overheating problems in facilities and provide an opportunity to obtain savings in energy costs. Turning off the heat will take about three days.

DPW is beginning to receive calls for air conditioning. We cannot turn on the AC in many buildings until we have turned off the heat. When the heating systems are turned off, DPW will activate AC in post facilities as outlined in Community Policy Memorandum #04-06, Vicenza Community Air Conditioning Policy Memorandum.

In summary, the start date of each comfort air-conditioning system will be based on several factors including the inside air temperature at the facility exceeding 80 degrees Fahrenheit for three consecutive days.

Community members are encouraged to exercise good fiscal stewardship and energy conservation, and to minimize AC use to the maximum extent possible. Your efforts will help the garrison continue to provide the best possible service in severely constrained fiscal environment.

For breaking news about Caserma Ederle turn Channel 12 or 14 on your AFN decoder. Channel 14 is the same as AFN Atlantic Prime, but features local news. You can also hear AFN106 over your AFN decoder, Channel 142.

*Tighten up post***Safety is top concern for home pools, trampolines**

First of all, thanks to all the volunteers who came out to support the school's track and field event March 31.

Volunteers are a critical component of an Army community in all aspects of morale and events.

With the upcoming deployment, there will be a critical need for a large number of volunteers to provide support to ongoing community activities for our youth.

I ask that all members of the Vicenza military community, military or civilian, single or married, consider becoming involved in any capacity and seek out opportunities – a little help will go a long way in making a difference. Thank you.

Yard of the Month competition returns

I made a trip through Villaggio recently and saw that many residents are preparing for the upcoming Yard of the Month competition. I'm excited to see such enthusiasm and want to remind everyone the first view of the yards has begun.

In addition to ensuring that our yards are presentable and colorful, we need to ensure, first of all, that they are also safe.

Wading pools

Per Garrison and SETAF Safety regulations, swimming pools – other than small children's wading pools – where the

maximum depth is 18 inches, are prohibited.

Wading pools must be attended at all times by an adult at least 18 years old or the pool must be emptied of water.

In addition, pools must be relocated every 72 hours in order to protect the grass.

Trampolines

Trampolines must be placed in a fenced area, must be enclosed with safety netting and springs, hooks, and frame must be completely covered with shock-absorbing pads.

Trampolines are to be used only under adult supervision. No child under age 6 is allowed to use a trampoline and only one person at a time can be on the apparatus.

Spring clean up

If you find items around your home needing special attention or care, let your building coordinator know and submit a request through Directorate of Public Works.

I noticed numerous bushes and trees in Villaggio with trash or items in them (i.e., lawn chair in a tree). Remove and dispose of such items properly.

If you need assistance, call DPW. Such pollution and disarray is unacceptable.



Command Sgt. Maj. Keith Filipp

13 Soldiers from 10 countries now call themselves Americans

Maj. Gen. Frank G. Helmick (left) SETAF commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Rice (far right), SETAF command sergeant major, with special guest, Lori Pietropaola (right), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services field office director, welcome America's newest citizens: (In no order) Spc. Laquan E. Borden, Canada; Pfc. Rafael S. Centeno, Mexico; Spc. Vorasane Prothisane, Laos; Staff Sgt. Christopher Choay, Micronesia; Cpl. Jimmy Chong, Korea; Staff Sgt. Christian Condo Carpio, Ecuador; Sgt. Angelito Froa, Philippines; Spc. Edgar Guzman, Guatemala; Pfc. Nicholas Murray, Canada; Pfc. Anthony Nicholson, Trinidad and Tobago; Sgt. Jose Nicolas Ramirez, Mexico; Pfc. John Noza, Philippines and Pfc. Jean Claude Valcourt, Haiti. (Photo by Barbara Romano, 7th JMTC Photo lab)

By Sgt. David Hopkins
SETAF Public Affairs office

Thirteen Soldiers raised their right hands, recited the Oath of Allegiance and became U.S. citizens in front of a packed house in the Ederle Theater April 11.

The new American citizens are from 12 different countries, but came together to join the more than 290 million citizens who already enjoy the freedoms the United States is known for.

"This feels great," said Pfc. Claude Valcourt, originally from Haiti, who is with Headquarters Co., 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team. "It's finally here. I'm an American citizen."

The ceremony kicked off with the playing of the Star Spangled Banner, a song the Soldiers have become familiar with over their Army careers, but it never held the meaning it had for them on the day of the ceremony.

"[The national anthem] sounded great today," said Sgt. Edgar Guzman, a medical technician who made the trip from Heidelberg, Germany, to be in the ceremony. "It really meant something special to me today."

The Soldiers all rose together and recited the words; "I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

Then it was official; they were American citizens.

The reciting of the oath only took a moment, but many of the Soldiers have been working a long time on the process of becoming U.S. citizens.

"It was a long process," said Guzman, who used to call Guatemala his home. "It took more than a year, but it was worth it. I'm excited that the day is finally here and I'm an American citizen."

The new citizens have been members of the Army for varied amounts of time, but now they are members of a new team – "America's Team."

"As a citizen of the United States of America, you have embarked on a new phase of your life," Maj. Gen. Frank Helmick, SETAF commander, said to the new citizens. "We are proud of each and every one of you. I know you will continue to make a difference, and I want to personally thank and welcome you to 'America's Team.'"

Gen. Casey new Army chief of staff

Army News Service
Press Release

Gen. George W. Casey Jr. became the 36th chief of staff of the Army, assuming the position from Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker.

Gen. Casey was the first commander of the Multinational Force-Iraq, a coalition of more than 30 countries, until February. He had served as Schoomaker's vice chief of staff before deploying to Iraq in 2003 to assume command of the coalition.

Guest speakers at the ceremony included Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates and Acting Secretary of the Army Pete Geren, both of whom praised Schoomaker for his accomplishments and the positive changes he made to the Army after being called from retirement in 2003 to assume the top uniformed Army position.

Geren, who hosted the ceremony, called Schoomaker a great teacher and Soldier, and honored him for nearly four decades of active service characterized by sacrifice, courage and devotion to duty.

"It's been a privilege to work alongside this extraordinary leader, this great teacher, a man who has given so much for his country and the Army he loves," Geren said. "Pete Schoomaker is a patriot, a man who has always put the country first and always answered the call to duty."

Gates also expressed his gratitude to Schoomaker, thanking him for his vision and leadership.

"Challenging times require extraordinary vision and leadership, and Pete has shown both those qualities," Gates said. "He has entirely changed the manner in which our Army is trained, deployed and organized."

In his parting words, Schoomaker reaffirmed that today's Soldiers are still the Army's greatest strength, because war will continue to be fought in the human dimension.

"While technology has changed our Army, there can be little doubt that when you look into the eyes of our warriors today, as I have in the last four years, I see the same patriotism that George Washington must have seen at Valley Forge," Schoomaker said.

"I have looked into the eyes of today's warriors and I am proud to report they continue to exceed every expectation for courage, dedication and selfless service - they are the heart of all we do, they are our future, and they demonstrate strength, compassion and warrior ethos."

Gen. Casey spoke last and thanked both secretaries, the president, Congress and Schoomaker for their faith in his abilities to lead the Army.

"I'm proud to be taking charge of an Army that's regarded as the best in the world at what it does," Gen. Casey said. "I have watched the men and women of our Army in action in the most demanding combat environment. I take great pride in the courage, the confidence and the commitment of our Soldiers and civilians to both the ideals that have made this country great and to making a difference in our world. They epitomize what is best about America."

"They and their families carry heavy burdens in today's war with a hard road ahead, yet their willingness to sacrifice to build a better future for others and to preserve our way of life is a great strength for our nation," he said. "We are Army Strong and I could not be more proud today to be a Soldier and to stand shoulder-to-shoulder during this time of danger and uncertainty."

April 25 Community Action Council/ Information Exchange has been cancelled because of spring break. The next CAC/Info Exchange will be May 23, 10 a.m. in Club Veneto. Find out what's happening in your community straight from the folks who make the events happen.

Deadline for Summer Hire program May 11

Army Civilian Personnel office
Press Release

General Information

The Summer Hire program is designed to provide young people an opportunity to gain meaningful job experience, prepare for future educational and career goals and support the Army mission.

The official start for Vicenza's Summer Hire 2007 program is June 25. The program ends Aug. 3.

Requirements

Summer Hire is open to all family members between the ages of 14 – 22 years. Youth must be the family member of an active duty military or DoD civilian. Youth must be 14 years old (see exception below) by June 25, which is the official start of the program and cannot reach their 23rd birthday prior to the end of the program, Aug. 3.

In Italy only U.S. citizens may apply. U.S. citizen family member youths are eligible for this program unless they hold dual nationality

or are an ordinarily resident in Italy. Direct questions to the Vicenza Civilian Personnel Advisory Center at 634-7266.

Resumes

To apply for the program youth need to submit an automated resume.

Check out the Summer Hire Job Kit for detailed instructions on "How to Apply" on the U.S. Army Civilian Personnel Web site: cpolrhp.belvoir.army.mil/eur/staffing/summerhire/sh_job_kit.asp.

Please note that in addition to the documents listed on the Web site, include the following in the processing package turned in to Vicenza CPAC: a copy of Soggiorno and a copy of student's Social Security card.

All resumes must be received no later than midnight Central European Time May 11. No resumes will be accepted after midnight May 11.

Applying through the Web site is the only acceptable method of applying.

In-processing packets must be completed and turned into the Vicenza Civilian Personnel

Advisory Center office within eight days after submissions of resumes or no later than eight days after the vacancy announcement closes.

Those applications without in-processing packages will not be considered as a valid application.

NOTE: Resumes will be accepted from eligible family members who relocate with their sponsor to Europe after May 11 but prior to the starting date. These resumes will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Family members will need to contact CPAC for details.

Only summer hires with a copy of their acknowledge receipt e-mail will be honored for verification of submission of your resume.

Positions available in the summer hire may include typing, computer work, filing, receptionist work, customer service and answering telephones.

Other work opportunities include working outdoors and involve light to moderate lifting and yard work.

Questions about the Summer Hire program may be directed to SummerhireInquiry@eur.army.mil.



Positions available in the summer hire may include typing, computer work, filing, receptionist work, customer service and answering telephones. (Outlook file photo)

Mandatory SAEDA training classes scheduled

Directorate of Plans, Training,
Mobilization and Security
Press Release

Subversion and Espionage Directed Against the Army training is a mandatory yearly requirement for all Department of Defense civilians and Soldiers in accordance with AR 381-12.

This briefing will cover individuals for FY07. Individuals who attended the briefings held in November and December 2006 are covered for training purposes until the next set of briefings this fall.

Community SAEDA training will be held on the following dates for the Department of Defense civilians, host nation support

staff, contractors, and Soldiers. There is no need to RSVP for this training. Please show up 15 minutes in advance to sign in and be seated.

Units are welcome to take advantage of this briefing in order to complete yearly training requirement for SAEDA. Training documentation will be disseminated to units upon completion of training when requested. Please call Albertina Littleton, DPTMS, at 634-8998 to do so.

Classes in Italian are set for April 18, 9:30-11 a.m. in the Hall of Heroes and again May 15, 1:30-3 p.m. in the Ederle Theater.

The English-language SAEDA class is held May 4, 9:30-11 a.m. in the Ederle Theater.

SETAF lauds workers at ceremony

SETAF Public Affairs Office
Press Release

The SETAF quarterly awards ceremony was held Friday on Hoekstra Field to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of many Soldiers and civilians.

The awardees were:

Sgt. Morales Club Induction: Staff Sgt. Jason Alldredge, Sgt. 1st Class Sean Horval, Sgt. Nicholas Kirschten, Staff Sgt. John Miller and Staff Sgt. Christopher Salles.

NCO of the 1st Quarter: Sgt. Eric Jensen.
NCO of the 2nd Quarter: Sgt. Jason Lusby.

Soldier of the 1st Quarter: Sgt. Melissa Potter.

Soldier of the 2nd Quarter: Spc. Ashly Flores.

Civilian Meritorious Service Medal: Robert Krcelic.

Civilian Army Commendation Medal: Kevin Czarkowski.

General Douglas McArthur award: Capt. Jeremiah Pope.

IMCOM Europe Award For Maintenance Excellence, runner up: Staff Sgt. Burton Jailette.

IMCOM Europe Award for Supply Excellence, runner up: Staff Sgt. Antonio Sanchez.

IMCOM-Europe Award For Maintenance Excellence: Angel Roche-Santiago.

IMCOM-Europe Award For Supply Excellence, runner up: Sandra Gillespie.

Defense Commissary Agency Employee of the Quarter: Laura Fanton.

South of the Alps Dining Facility, Cook of the Quarter: Arthur Pagenhardt.

South of the Alps Dining Facility, Employee of the Quarter: Hidra Smadi.

Equal Opportunity representative of the Quarter: Sgt. 1st Class Martin Flint.

Safety Award of the Quarter: Master Sgt. Javier Abad.

Reenlistment NCO of the Quarter: Staff Sgt. Shalonda Knight.

Volunteer Coach of the Quarter: Staff Sgt. Michael Kenney.

2007 African American History Month recognition: 1st Sgt. Lamonta Cladwell.

20 Year length of Service award: Gianfranco Bertacco.

10 Year Length of Service award: Sharon George.

Vaccine encouraged for college students

Dormitories ripe with meningitis bacteria

European Regional Medical Command
Public Affairs Office
Press Release

When high school students receive their acceptances to college, they should also receive something else: a vaccination.

The potentially life threatening bacteria called Neisseria meningitis commonly infects military personnel living in barracks and college students living in dormitories.

Basic trainees routinely receive the vaccine to protect them against several types of meningitis and other infections.

Health officials recommend that college-bound students receive the vaccine, too.

"College freshmen who live in dormitories are five times more likely to get a meningococcal infection as compared with those who live off campus or don't attend college," said Dr. (Lt. Col.) William P. Corr, Europe Regional Medical Command's consultant for preventive medicine at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

Vaccination is a proven way to reduce the risk of infection.

"Over the past 12 months, many DOD

children in Europe have been vaccinated against meningococcal infections," said Corr, "but for those teenagers who haven't been vaccinated and are going to college, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends one shot of a vaccine that protects against four types of meningitis-causing bacteria."

The vaccine is long lasting, and the current guidance is to receive the vaccine only once in a lifetime.

Corr recommends the meningococcal vaccine for several other groups of people:

- Adolescents entering middle school (11-12 year olds) or high school (15 years old).

- A child or adult without a spleen.

- Children and adults who lack "complement proteins," a particular group of serum proteins that help the body fight infection.

- People exposed to someone infected with meningitis types A, C, Y, or W-135.

- Children and adults traveling to sub-Saharan Africa between December and June.

For details about the meningococcal vaccine, contact the U.S. Army Health Center Vicenza at 634-7484. In Livorno call 633-7357.

Single servicemembers sweep away partying misconception

Story and photos

By Staff Sgt. Joyce Costello
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

One week of learning about budgeting, advertising, marketing and the difference between appropriated and non-appropriated funds is not the average training you would expect young Soldiers to receive or even have a need for. But, for Better Opportunity for Single Servicemembers (BOSS) from Caserma Ederle and Camp Darby, the training is critical if they want to improve their local BOSS programs.

"I've given this class to Soldiers who ended up going to Iraq and Afghanistan and started their own program. It touched my heart to see them do it on their own when they didn't have to," said Joanne Geer, Installation Command regional program manager for BOSS. "In Afghanistan, the BOSS folks organized lizard races and their program went on to win at the Department of Army level."

Taking a week off for BOSS training takes a lot of commitment

and support from leadership.

"We needed to make sure our BOSS members were qualified and given the proper training in order to succeed," said USAG Livorno's Command Sgt. Maj. William Berrios. "I got together with USAG Vicenza's command sergeant major [Keith Filipp] and we figured out a way to get as many Soldiers trained up as possible in the most financially smart way."

After blocks of instructions in the mornings, the servicemembers put training into practice.

"I had no idea that I would be helping lay down the matting and cleaning up the pool" said Sgt. Adam Villareal, USAG Vicenza BOSS vice president. "But this helps me practice what we learned earlier about organizing community volunteer events and I'm definitely glad to be out of the barracks doing something I can see makes a difference."

Not only did the BOSS members help with the community pool, they also got a chance to go to the American Beach in Tirrenia and help save the government thousands of

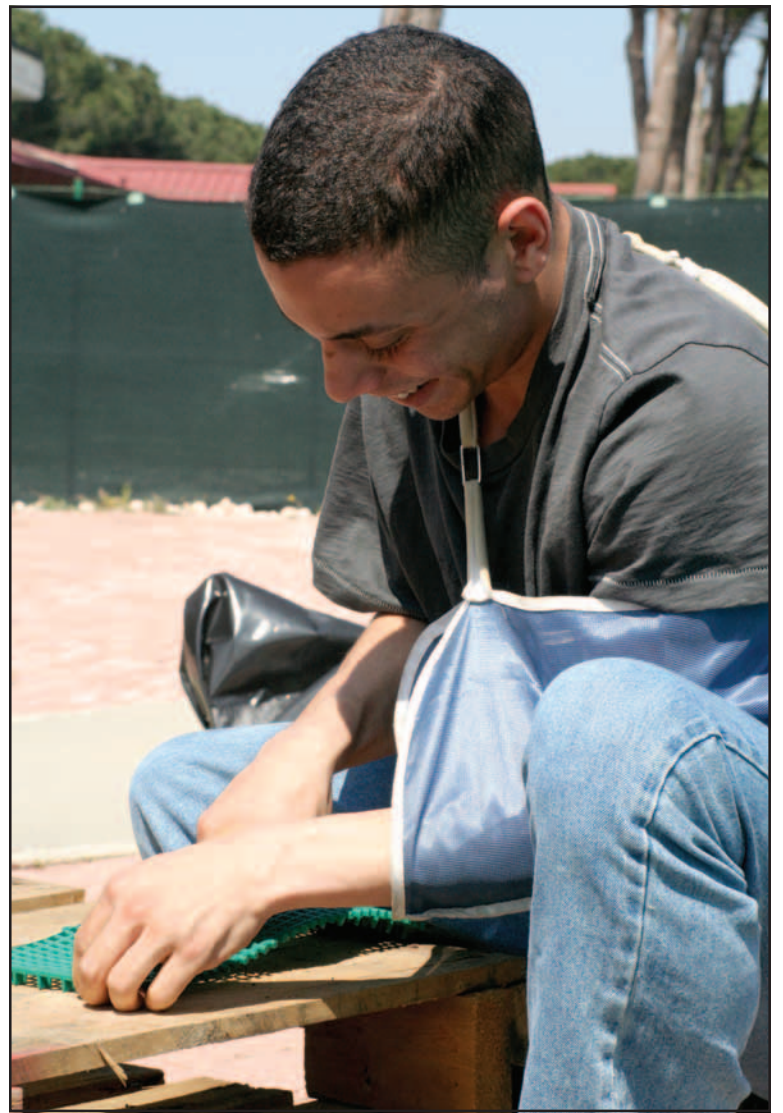
dollars laying down boardwalk.

"It's hard work laying down the boardwalk, but whenever my friends and I visit the beach, I'll look at it and know that with my sweat and blood, I helped put this together and that's cool," said Sgt. Wanita Wilson, a Soldier with USAG Livorno Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

While volunteering is a major pillar of the BOSS, it's not all the program offers its members.

"Going to a BOSS meeting is kind of like a Community Action Counsel for single servicemembers" said Mike Ftacek, Vicenza MWR advisor. "Junior enlisted Soldiers might be intimidated going before the top brass at a CAC meeting and BOSS meetings offer a great venue for getting problems solved and getting assistance from their peers and the senior BOSS advisors."

Ftacek adds that the one week of training was a great way to get BOSS members up to speed on what opportunities are out there, but Army leaders support is even more critical in helping BOSS execute community events, ensuring their troops attend BOSS meetings and understanding how a good BOSS program benefits the service members and the community.



(Left) Vicenza and Livorno BOSS members bike to the leaning tower of Pisa for physical training. (Photo by Bill Carpenter, USAG Livorno MWR Marketing) (Right) Single servicemembers carry boardwalk planks and volunteer to help prepare the American Beach in Tirrenia for the grand opening Memorial Day weekend. (Top) Sgt. Christopher Everett, USAG Livorno BOSS member, customizes a section of flooring for the pool as part of a joint volunteer project.



Boy Scouts from Vicenza Troop #295 and their leader dig holes for the shrubs they're planting. The scouts spent most of April 6, updating the landscaping in front of the Ederle Theater as a community service project. Older scouts help remove tree bark from in front of the Ederle Theater as part of their service project. "It was nice to see that we made a difference when everyone was there," said James Littleton, Troop #295 member. "Plus they have laid the grass so that is cool." While their Vicenza High School classmates had the day off, the boys helped plant nine rose bushes and 30 shrubs in front of the theater that were donated by the Directorate of Public Works. The scouts have a bake sale May 5 and are looking for service projects. Anyone with an idea can call Ellen Eldredge at 333-174-5840.

Scouts service project spruces up theater

Story and photos by Diana Bahr
USAG Vicenza Public Affairs

While most Vicenza Middle and High School students spent April 6 enjoying the day off, members of Boy Scout Troop #295 were performing a community service project in front of the Ederle Theater.

"We told command sergeant major [Keith] Filipp that we were looking for service projects," said Alli Littleton, who coordinated the project for the boys with help from Ellen Eldredge, troop leader. "He said DPW was going to spruce up the area in front of the movie theater, but we could take it on as a project. We agreed – and here we are."

Almost a dozen youth took part in the project that began with the boys and their leaders preparing the site.

First they had to remove all the bark and underlying plastic sheeting, then it was time to clean up and remove any left over bark and debris. Then it was time to decide what plants went where, followed by digging holes and installing the plants.

"It was warm outside so we weren't as cold as when we painted the pillars," said scout Kyle Littleton referring to the service project where they painted over the graffiti on the underpass of Via Aldo Moro. "It was also cool because we got to use the big tractor crane."

The Directorate of Public Works donated nine rose bushes and 30 shrubs for the project that took most of the day to complete.

The scouts are holding a bake sale May 5 in front of the post exchange.





A youngster grimaces as his sister tries to pull hardened pizza dough off of his hands.

Beat dough, not children

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Joyce Costello
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

April is both the Month of the Military Child and National Child Abuse Prevention Month. At Camp Darby, Ann Hinckley, Family Advocacy program assistant, decided to be creative. She came up with a class to make healthy pizza to teach parents how easy it is to turn everyday life events into fun activities with their children.

“Sometimes the idea of cooking with your kids can be a bit daunting and not something you want to do when your in a hurry or seeking perfection,” said Hinckley. “But it can be a lot of fun with a little bit of preparation. Besides, pizza is a good way to sneak in those extra servings of healthy vegetables.”

“My favorite food is pizza and steak,” said 10-year-old Marcie Fischer, as she picked out the toppings for her pizza. “It’s easy and fun, but before you start cooking, you need to wash your hands.”

“Ewww, what got in the dough?” responded her sister Janice, age 11.

“I’ve made bread dough before, but with pizza dough, if you put too much flour in it, you can’t put it on the pan and make it stick.” added Janice – wise beyond her years in the kitchen.

“Parent’s need to know that there are so many ways they can reduce stress and not resort to abusing their children,” said Hinckley. “Army Community Service is here every day to help parents out – not just during Child Abuse Prevention Month or Month of the Military Child.”

The next free class is April 24 at 3 p.m. and will focus on home safety. Camp Darby’s firefighters will teach fire and house safety to children elementary school-age and below.

Additional information, free booklets and CD recordings on child abuse prevention can be found on the Web site: www.militaryonesource.com.

Celebrating spring with smiles, surprises, special friends

By Chiara Mattiolo
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

A crisp spring breeze danced through the air as children laughed and searched for hidden treasures.

The excitement on the children’s faces shined brighter than the sun at Camp Darby’s annual Spring Fling Extravaganza.

“I really enjoyed it and I tried to get as many eggs as I could, but the best thing was that everyone received a gift,” explained 8-year-old-Irene, who won a large, soft teddy bear.

When the Easter Bunny and AFN Livorno Eagle arrived, some of the little ones were frightened.

“I just found one egg” said Bianca, 5 years old, “Because I was afraid of the bunny and didn’t want to be around him.”

But it wasn’t long before eager children were clambering all over the giant life-sized bunny asking to shake her paw while others eagerly posed for pictures with the AFN Eagle mascot.

The annual Spring Fling is a major community event that brings Camp Darby community members together with guests from the nearby Folgore Brigade and the Italian community of Fauglia.

“We had a great turnout and I am sure we met the aim of this event,” said Eloise Smith, Child and Youth Services, Training and Curriculum specialist. “To get

involved in building strong commitments with families, children and friends, share our traditions with our Italian neighbors and not forget the meaning of Easter.”



A toddler shows off eggs she found during the Spring Fling Extravaganza. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Joyce Costello, USAG Livorno Public Affairs.)

“This is a wonderful way to build a community,” said Riccardo Froli, Fauglia mayor. “I am here with my daughter and more than 30 people from the city of Fauglia. The children are having fun and this is what counts.”

“Children do not have language barriers and get along easily and well, no matter what nationality they are,” added Giovanni Ciompolini, member of the Fauglia community. “Visiting Camp Darby is a different experience for us and for our children and we are happy to come here.”

Michael Ma, consular officer in the U.S. Consulate in Florence, added that joint events like this are a great opportunity for Americans to share their culture and to learn more about their host nation.

“Every one of us is an ambassador for our country,” said Ma. “It’s important to know that this could be the only time an Italian might ever meet an American and that their attitude towards the U.S. is based on how you act with and around them.”

This events would not be possible without volunteers.



USAG Livorno BOSS president dives for a golden egg hoping to win the Go Army charcoal grill grand prize during the single servicemember treasure hunt.

“Anytime there’s a chance to give back to the community in which we live, it’s important to volunteer,” said Lt. Col. Stephen Sicinski, USAG Livorno commander. “I am especially proud of Camp Darby’s bilingual volunteers who made sure our Italian guests feel welcome regardless of language differences.”

Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

Asparagus festival

Bassano's white asparagus is known in many places for its high quality.

It is so prized that it was given a legal name from the government: *Asparagi DOC di Bassano*.

The town's festival celebrating this vegetable is held April 22 from sunup to sundown in the main squares. Here visitors will find farmers selling their prized asparagus and vying for awards for the best asparagus, which are presented at a folk-feast during the 'Asparago d'Oro' competition.

Bassano sights

While in Bassano, visit the *Ponte degli Alpini*, the bridge that stretches over the River Brenta.

Built in the late twelfth century, replacements or repairs have been needed at regular intervals, mostly because of flooding.

The present structure was designed by famous architect Andrea Palladio in 1568, and built of wood in order to make the bridge as flexible as possible.

At one end of the bridge find what was once the grappa distillery 'Nardini' founded in 1779, these days the distilling process takes place elsewhere, but there's still the original shop and bar where you can sample before you select your bottle. The grappa museum is open: Tuesday-Sunday 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

On the other side of the bridge you'll find the Alpini Museum below the Taverna al Ponte.

Several historical documents, photos and items refer to the Alpine Corps and the events that occurred during the wars are on display.

In the lower floor there is also



A display in the Alpini Museum in Bassano

the reconstruction of a *trincea*, or trench. The Alpini Museum is open Tuesday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Entrance is free, but donations are accepted for postcards that are displayed near the guest registry.

Iris garden of Florence

The opening of the Iris Garden of Florence – once an olive grove – is open to the public during the month of May. The garden is perched on the east slope of the lofty *Piazzale Michelangelo* overlooking the city of Florence.

Every year iris bulbs from all over the world are planted in the garden and judged by an international jury.

On paths winding gently down the hillside from the Piazza, the garden reveals a birds-eye view of Florence, the Arno and the mountains beyond.

Since medieval times the iris has been the symbol of Florence, appearing on its coat of arms, banner and minted coin, the florin. Opening hours are 10 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. and 3 to 7 p.m. Entrance is free.

Scrovegni chapel

In *Padova* the *Capella degli Scrovegni*, Scrovegni Chapel, offers reservations-only visits to view its famous cycle of Giotto frescoes.

The prized frescoes are the Euganean city's only works by the artist, which are visible in a display designed to protect them from the ravages of time and, most of all, humidity.

The church itself, located in full view of an ancient Roman arena, sits in a park in the heart of the city.

Construction on the chapel began in the late 1200's and was completed and consecrated in 1305, the year in which the frescoes are presumed to have been done.

The cycle of pictures, divided into panels, covers the entire surface of the chapel's interior.

From these images, one can 'read' about the life of Mary and Christ, see the allegorical figures representing Virtues and Vices, gaze upon the Last Judgment, the Eternal Father and the Madonna and Child. There are also images of the evangelists and fathers of the church.

Art historians consider this to be the best-preserved cycle of frescoes by Giotto and the *Capella*

degli Scrovegni is used as a key point of reference for the attribution and dating of all of the artist's works.

Only 25 people at a time are allowed inside and visits take about half an hour.

Details and tickets can be found in English on the Web site: www.cappelladegliscrovegni.it.

Pinocchio park

In the town of *Collodi* find 'The Park of Pinocchio.' This park, which is far from being a traditional amusement park, is a creation of artistic work by many Italian artists.

The park was built over a period of 31 years from 1956 to 1987 and is labeled the first and foremost center of 'Pinocchiology' in the world.

Facilities include a puppet laboratory where you can inspect the various stages of puppet's gestation; from wooden block to a fully dressed marionette. They also have regular shows, exhibitions, demonstrations and other entertainment.

Another point of interest is the 'Square of Mosaics,' which tells the story of the main episodes with vivid originality. Also, visit the 'Red Prawn Tavern.'

The Village of Pinocchio, which is the starting point of a paved path whose borders are populated by the figures from the story such as the Cat and the Fox; the Tree of golden Ducats, which is located in the Field of Miracles; the Great Whale, the Fairy and other personalities from the book.

Fans who expect to find Disney's little chubby-cheeked Pinocchio and his cricket companion might be surprised – the Italian Pinocchio is less cherubic, with a sharp nose, angular limbs and a less-likeable expression.

Collodi is the birthplace of Carlo Collodi, the literary Geppetto to the character of Pinocchio, he was born Lorenzetti, but adopted the surname Collodi out of patriotic regionalism.

The town of Collodi celebrates the birthday of Pinocchio between the end of May and the beginning of June every year, so expect extra celebrations to be added in the entertainment park for this little wooden humanoid and his array of strange friends.

The park is open 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. until sundown; 2006 entrance fees were: adults, 8.50 euro; children ages 6-14, 6.50 euro.

Now Showing

Caserma Ederle Theater

April 17	CLOSED	
April 18	Shooter (R)	7 p.m.
April 19	The Messengers (PG13)	7 p.m.
April 20	Hannibal Rising (R)	7 p.m.
	Perfect Stranger (R)	10 p.m.
April 21	Home on the Range (PG)	1 p.m.
	Breach (PG13)	4 p.m.
	Letters from Iwo Jima (R)	7 p.m.
April 22	Letters from Iwo Jima (R)	4 p.m.
	Perfect Stranger (R)	7 p.m.
April 23	CLOSED	
April 24	CLOSED	

Camp Darby Theater

April 19	Smoking Aces (R)	6 p.m.
April 20	Breach (PG13)	6 p.m.
April 21	Hannibal Rising (R)	6 p.m.
April 22	Meet the Robinsons (G)	2 p.m.

Movie Synopsis

THE MESSENGERS - *Kristen Stewart, Dylan McDermott*. A family moves into a run-down sunflower farm. As the farm begins to revive after years of disrepair, the family begins to notice uncomfortable and alarming changes in their father's behavior.

PERFECT STRANGER - *Halle Berry, Bruce Willis*. When investigative reporter Rowena Price learns that her friend's murder might be connected to powerful ad executive Harrison Hill, she goes undercover with the help of an associate. Posing as Katherine, a 'temp' at Hill's ad agency, and Veronica, a girl Hill flirts with online, Rowena surrounds her prey from all sides, only to discover that she isn't the only one changing identities. The closer Rowena gets to finding the truth, the more we see how far people will go to protect it.

HANNIBAL RISING - *Gong Li, Gaspard Ulliel*. In Eastern Europe at the end of World War II, a young Hannibal watches as his parents violently die, leaving his young sister in his care. Alone and without any means of support, he is forced to live in a Soviet orphanage. He flees to Paris to find his uncle has died but his Japanese widow, Lady Murasaki welcomes him. Even her kindness and love cannot soothe the nightmares and sorrows that plague him. Showing a cunning aptitude for science he is accepted into medical school, which serves to hone his skills and provide the tools to exact justice on the war criminals that haunt him day and night. This quest will ignite an insatiable lust within a serial killer who was not born, but made.

LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA - *Ken Watanabe, Kazunari Ninomiya*. The story of the battle of Iwo Jima between the United States and Japan during World War II, as told from the perspective of two good friends serving in the Japanese forces, who watch helplessly throughout various battles as their comrades are killed.

Admission: Age 12 and over \$4, under age 12, \$2.
The Ederle Theatre box office opens one hour prior to show time.

Vicenza Art Center classes

The Vicenza Art Center is open Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, noon-6 p.m. and weekends 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Call 634-7074 for details about classes offered.

The art center offers children's birthday parties and adult craft gatherings. The staff will lead up to 10 participants to create an art project of your choice. Two-week advance booking is recommended.

Cost is \$90 and includes supplies. Choose from mosaic stepping stones, ceramic plate or mug glazing, clay handbuilding, assemble or adorn a wooded birdhouse, frame a mirror, bookends or keepsake box.

Month of the Military Child special: Free drymount of your child's artwork when you have it custom-framed by the Art Center staff.

April 1-30: Do-It-Yourself open studios - frame shop, woodshop, pottery and textile arts cost \$2/hour. The frame

shop is closed Thursdays.

April 19: Intro to digital photography - 3-6 p.m. Cost: \$30.

April 20: Your baby's footprints on canvas. Drop in from noon- 6 p.m. Cost is \$25 and supplies are included.

April 21: Scrapbooking - 11 a.m. - noon. Cost is \$20 and supplies are included.

April 24: Refresher framing - 5-6 p.m., cost is \$10, must be aged 16 and older.

April 25: Engraved wooden plaque workshop - 5-6 p.m., cost is \$25 and supplies are included.

April 27: Lunchtime *Art a la Carte* - 12:15-1 p.m. Simple how-to's, demonstrations and seminars on a myriad of topics. Bring a bag lunch if you want. Cost is \$8 plus supplies.

April 28: Intro to picture framing - Noon - 4 p.m., cost is \$30 plus supplies. Bring in your favorite 4x6 inch photo. Must be at least 16 years old.

April 28: Learn Origami - 3-4 p.m., cost is \$15 and supplies are included. Class is open to adults or adult and child pairs.

Classified Ads

Editor's Note: Caserma Ederle community members may place free classified ads (**not personal or personal services ads**) on the MWR Web site: www.vicenzamwr.com/marketplace.

The Outlook and Directorate of MWR are not responsible for any errors in the advertisement.

Photos accompanying the advertisement will not appear in *The Outlook* and ads are edited for space. **The Outlook does not take classifieds; sellers must place ads on www.vicenzamwr.com.**

For details about items go to the MWR Web site: www.vicenzamwr.com/marketplace.

1992 BMW 320i: Good condition, \$3,000.

PCSing sale: Furniture, transformers. All prices negotiable.

Sofa: Good condition. \$110.

2000w transformer: Excellent condition. \$75.

1600w transformer: Great condition. \$50.

2006 Pinarello Galileo: Good condition, \$1,400 OBO.

A/C units: Several different types, all in good condition.

1982 Porsche 928: Nice condition. \$5,000 OBO.

Wanted: Thule or similar roof top cargo for V70 Volvo.

2004 Volvo XC 70: Excellent condition. \$24,000.

Metalshed: 8x8. \$175.

Vodafone mobile connect card UMTS: Just need the chip. \$75.

Baby Einstein set: 10 DVDs. \$60, OBO.

Hamster with cage and all the extras: Very friendly, likes to be picked up. \$15.

Fish tank: Comes with extras \$60, OBO.

Antique children's desk: 1900-1920. \$125.

Microwave stand: Barely used. Will deliver. \$50.

Weider 245: Never used. \$150.

Kitchen table w/4 chairs: Will deliver. \$75.

Couch and love seat: 2 yrs old. Will deliver. \$750.

Wanted: Outdoor child play house.

Harley softail 18 in. ape bars: With mounting pracket. \$70.



Eggstravaganza



Photos by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff



(Above) A two-year-old gets ready to put the candy into her basket during the traditional Egg Hunt held on Caserma Ederle April 7.

The event kicked off with opening remarks by Maj. Gen. Frank G. Helmick, SETAF Commander. Activities offered to the participants included bounce houses, egg hunts (ages newborn-3, 4-6, and 7-10), spoon and egg obstacle course, bean bag toss, decorate a bunny bag and egg decorating.

"I spent about two months putting the event together with a great team of MWR staff members," said Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation Community Activities coordinator Shay Morris who coordinated the event.

"Child and Youth Services really stepped in and tailored the events to the children, as they are the experts in that area. This year, we made it a little bit bigger by adding the barbecue and bounce houses. It just seemed appropriate," she added. The event was topped off by a free barbecue sponsored by the USO. Last but not least, children had the chance to hug and have a picture taken with the Easter Bunny.

(Center) Linda Lorenzana, Vicenza USO manager, right, hands out hot dogs at the free barbecue. Donations were accepted.

(Right) Many children from toddlers to age 10 wait for their turn in front of the Camelot Castle ready to bounce under the supervision of MWR staff members.



(Top) A young boy poses with the Easter Bunny during *Eggstravaganza*. The event was held on Caserma Ederle April 7.

(Left) A girl participates in the Spoon and Egg obstacle course as part of the fun activities during the event.

(Below) A youngster gets ready to decorate one of the hundreds of eggs prepared for the day.



(Left) Children in the age group newborn to 3 race to find candy hidden on Hoekstra Field during the annual *Eggstravaganza* held on Caserma Ederle April 7.