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A Soldier runs underneath a Chinook helicopter while helping to airlift two M777 lightweight 155mm howitzers to Forward Operating Base Fenty near Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

TF Bayonet gets big bang from smaller package

Story and photos by
Sgt. Brandon Aird,
173rd ABCT Public Affairs

JALALABAD AIRFIELD – Afghanistan – Soldiers in Task Force Bayonet are starting off the New Year with a big bang thanks to the arrival of a new and very valuable asset: M777 lightweight 155mm howitzers.

Chinook helicopters flew in the new M777s to various forward operating bases the last two weeks of December.

The M777 will replace some of the currently fielded M198 155mm towed howitzers that will be moved to other locations.

"The new howitzers are a vast improvement over the old ones," explained 1st. Lt. Anthony Demarco, Fusion Company's Executive Officer, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry (Airborne). Demarco was assisting in the fielding of the new guns.

The new howitzer is lighter, can shoot farther and is more accurate than the older howitzer

"The triple seven can put steel on steel," said Staff. Sgt. Franklin Zenon, a howitzer mechanic in

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 321st Field Artillery (Airborne). Zenon and his team of Soldiers will be working with the 173rd ABCT manning the new howitzer.

The M777 is made out of titanium, and is roughly 5,000 lbs lighter than the M198, making it more mobile and user friendly.

"It also minimizes collateral damage by being extremely accurate," said Zenon.

The M777 can fire a Raytheon / Bofors XM982 Excalibur GPS / Inertial Navigation-guided extended-range 155mm projectile. In short, the round is GPS guided for more accuracy and rocket assisted for longer range. The Excalibur round is rated as being accurate within 10 meters.

"We could fire a round four miles off course and it will still come back and hit its target," said Zenon.

Being able to accurately hit a target with indirect fire support is crucial to combat operations.

"The triple seven and Excalibur (rounds) are going to save Soldier's lives and minimize civilian casualties in the process," explained Zenon.

1-503rd loses Soldier to IED wounds



Pfc. Brian L. Gorham

CASERMA EDERLE, Vicenza, Italy – A Soldier with the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, currently deployed as Task Force Bayonet in support of the NATO International Security Assistance Force, died Dec. 31 as a result of wounds sustained in action near Forward Operating Base Curry in Afghanistan.

Pfc. Brian L. Gorham, 21, from Woodburn, Ky., was assigned to D-Company, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne).

Gorham sustained injuries when his convoy struck an improvised explosive device (IED) Dec. 12. This is the same incident that claimed the lives of Staff Sgt. Michael Gabel and Cpl. Joshua Blaney. Gorham was receiving treatment at Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, when he succumbed to his injuries Dec. 31.

A memorial ceremony will be held Thursday, Jan. 10, in the post chapel at 2 p.m.



It's a boy

Jan. 2 at 7:42 p.m. marked the arrival of Andrew Atreyu Grueneberg at the Benincaso Birthing Pavilion. Coming in at 7-pounds, 14-ounces and 21 inches long, his birth makes him the first born child in Vicenza for 2008. Andrew is the son of Pfc. Barndon and Natalie Grueneberg. Pfc. Grueneberg is a member of D-Co., 1st Battalion, 503rd Airborne Regiment, and is stationed at Forward Operating Base Orgun-E, Paktika Province, Afghanistan. Grueneberg was able to make it back for his son's birth just in time. "I received a Red Cross notice that my wife was going to have the baby early. My command went out of its way to help me get home. It took five days to make it back. But it was worth it to be here with my wife and new son." The Grueneberg's are also the parents of 3-year-old daughter Aurora. (Photo by Gary L. Kieffer, Outlook Staff)

Garrison news

Letter to the editor

The Vicenza Community Club has provided continuous financial support to the Cub Scouts to supplement the cost of camping fees and equipment and provide advancement pins, patches and awards.

This year's \$1,450 donation to Vicenza Cub Scouts Pack 295 will go a long way in ensuring our youth continue to enjoy quality programs.

The donation is also being used to cater the Cub Scouts' annual awards banquet at Club Veneto.

This year it was especially important for the Scouts to have a special evening because of the deployment of so many parents.

The VCC's continued support of the Cub Scouts makes it possible for us to continue our mission of preparing our young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them core values.

We assist them in becoming responsible, participating citizens and leaders.

Elizabeth Mitchell
Committee Chair,
Cub Scout Pack 295

Letters to the Editor can be sent to editor@eur.army.mil. They must be signed and have a telephone number for verification. Letters may be edited for improper content and space. Editor reserves the right to not publish submissions for impropriety or bad taste.

Rose looking for issues to pin on family action plan delegates

Story by Jon Fleshman
USAG Vicenza Public Affairs

Rose Holland is looking for issues as well as delegates to this year's Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) Conference on Caserma Ederle Jan. 22-23.

"We will take issues for this conference up to Jan. 21," said Holland, the Army Family Action Plan coordinator and conference organizer.

"We want to encourage the community to focus on global Army- and European-wide issues as much as possible since the Info X (the Vicenza military community's monthly information exchange) provides input to the command about local issues."

Examples of issues raised at garrison conferences and acted on at Department-of-the-Army level include increasing the amount of Service members Group Life Insurance, creating the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program and getting the Thrift Savings Plan authorized for military personnel.



In the foreground Judy Crow and Michael Morris - co-facilitators check out the topics of discussion for the work group session during the Youth AFAP conference in 2007. (Photo by Allie Vallery)

Holland will be collecting issues at the PX food court 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Jan. 8, 9 and 11, and noon-5 p.m. Jan. 12. She said there are also AFAP issues collection boxes in the mail room, the library, the commissary, the clinics and two of the child development centers' pick-up areas.

Community members may also submit issues via internet by going to www.vicenzamwr.com. The local issues from the past three years and the summary from the local conference and the results from the December Department of the Army conference are at the AFAP section of the above web site.

Delegate applications can also be down-loaded in the same area of the website.

"We still need delegates, especially spouses," Holland added.

For more information you may call Holland at DSN 634-8526 or civ 0444-71-8526.

Understanding your veterinary treatment facility

By Capt. John W. Coatney,
Chief, Vicenza Branch, SEUDVC
Special to the Outlook

Army Veterinary Services is one of the least understood and most dynamic organizations in the Department of Defense. This article should help the reader understand the mission of Veterinary Services, emphasizing services that Army veterinarians offer the community.

The Army is the Executive Agent for Veterinary Services for the Department of Defense. This is why only Army veterinarians are found in the veterinary clinics on Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine installations. While Army veterinarians support vital research for the warfighter, attach to Special

Forces units and engage in Civil Affairs missions, the typical mission for the installation veterinarian consists of three key roles: food safety and security, public health and animal medicine.

Safe, wholesome food sources are the responsibility of VS. All Army, Navy, and Marine Corp installations have veterinary food inspectors (68Rs) assigned who ensure that all food coming into and being stored on the installation is safe to eat. Veterinary Corps Officers conduct sanitary audits at food production establishments on the economy who sell to the Department of Defense to ensure that all products meet or exceed U.S. standards.

Public health is an extremely

important, often overlooked part of an Army veterinarian's mission. Veterinarians play a significant role in minimizing the risk of zoonotic diseases (diseases that can be transmitted between humans and animals), such as rabies, intestinal worms, anthrax and Avian Influenza.

Army veterinarians play active roles in the procurement, wellness, and treatment of government owned animals, primarily Military Working Dogs. In addition, the installation Veterinary Treatment Facility provides care to the pets of anyone enrolled in DEERS.

Services may vary from installation to installation, depending upon the number of VS Soldiers assigned and concurrent mission requirements.

The Vicenza VTF provides advanced outpatient care, including (but not limited to) annual exams, vaccinations, parasite control, health certificates, laboratory diagnostics, radiography, and ultrasound.

The VTF also performs elective surgeries, such as spays, neuters, mass removals and dental procedures. For more information on what the VTF can offer, call 0444-71-4841.



Speak Out

"What are you looking forward to in 2008?"

By Staff. Sgt. David Hopkins



Sgt. Tamara Crawford

Battle Command
I'm looking forward to starting a family.



Spc. Yadzaida Garcia

Enlisted Management
I'm looking forward to getting promoted and furthering my military career.



Staff Sgt. Joanne Joseph

Command Group
I'm looking forward to gaining new knowledge and growing as a person. I want to learn from the mistakes I made last year.



Staff Sgt. Derek Jones

Chief of Staff's driver
I'm looking forward to the arrival of my new child in March. It will be a great addition to our family.

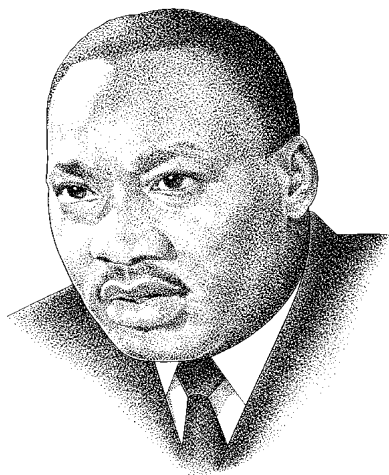


Staff Sgt. Dannia Benitez

SGS Administration
I look forward to broadening my military experience through different jobs and attending BNOC.

Garrison news

Remembering a leader who changed a nation



A message from the SETAF Equal Employment Opportunity Office

On Jan. 21, we celebrate the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. This observance is honored throughout the United States, as well as over 100 nations worldwide. The day will commemorate Rev. King's life work and accomplishments.

There will be closure of government buildings and military installations but what really counts are the tributes that the men, women, and children across this great nation will make on behalf of a man that devoted his life to bringing the American ideals of liberty and justice for all into reality.

The King Center in Atlanta, Georgia sets this year's theme as "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On... Not a Day Off."

Remember: the dream of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., that all people be judged by the content of their character.

Celebrate: the impacts of King's actions on our nation.

Act: do something in keeping with the King's ideology; a simple act of kindness directed toward someone you would not otherwise acknowledge during your daily travels or volunteer some time towards helping someone who can not help themselves.

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born Jan. 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Ga. At the age of 15, he graduated high school and enrolled in Morehouse College. During his postgraduate

years, at Crozer Theological Seminary and Boston University, King developed a serious intellectual quest for a method to eliminate social evil.

King's nonviolent approach to protesting initially divided the African American community, but civil rights leaders soon recognized it as the only respectable method of protest. King answered the call to leadership and soon became known as a pre-eminent champion of civil rights and nonviolent social change. Despite frequent confrontation with violence and incarceration, King could not be deterred from speaking out against social and racial injustices.

Some of King's accomplishments include: assisting in organizing the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, leading the Montgomery Bus Boycott, leading the March on Washington, winning the Nobel Peace Prize (the youngest recipient ever, at age 35), and lobbying for the civil rights legislation which resulted in the passing of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*.

Let us be reminded of the reflections of King, during the Montgomery Bus Boycott, "He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it."

The Vicenza community is invited to participate in the MLK march from the post theater to the post chapel on Jan. 17 at noon.

Tighten up post

A message from Command Sgt. Maj. Keith Fillipp,
USAG Vicenza Command Sgt. Maj.

Welcome back from the holidays and into a new calendar year. As we start a new year, I wanted to recap a few issues to ensure we start off on the right foot. *First, as transformation in Europe continues, transformation and public works will continue on Caserma Ederle and Villaggio Village.*

This means a lot more large construction vehicles on our roads, and reduced parking spaces. Because of these factors, driving and parking on these installations is even more important now than ever for the safety of everyone – workers, drivers, pedestrians, and our children.

Continue to be respectful of the law, and only park in the appropriate designated areas. Leave the handicap spots vacant for those who are authorized to park at them.

Bicycles left unlocked, or not secured to a bike rack are being collected by the Military Police and moved to the Directorate of Emergency Services impound lot located on Johnson Ave.

If your bicycle turns up missing, report to the MP station and request to be escorted to the impound lot to search for your bicycle prior to filing a missing bike report.

We must constantly work together as good neighbors to make our community better.

What is a good neighbor? A good neighbor takes pride in his neighborhood and takes part in making it a better place to live.

When a good neighbor sees a problem in the neighborhood, they try to come up with a solution, not just gossip or complain about their neighbors.

Excessive noise can pose a problem in our community. Be considerate and think about your neighbor who may have just ended a night shift duty in the morning or the young children nearby who have just fallen asleep.

Neighbors taking care of one another is what will continue to make our community a great place to live. If you need help, ask for help. If you see a problem, be part of the solution. If you know how things work, share your knowledge and teach others new or unaware of the systems.

Strive to be that good neighbor – the one who you want living next



Command Sgt. Maj. Keith Fillipp
USAG Vicenza Command Sgt. Maj.



Lost your bike? Before you file a report, check with the MPs to see if your bike has been impounded. Local MPs are impounding all bikes left unsecured. (Photos by Gary L. Kieffer, Outlook staff)

door to you. If you find items around your home that needs special attention/care please let your building coordinator know and submit a request through DPW.

The area coordinator is a key person in housing and he can help solve problems or serve as an intermediary between neighbors. If you do not know who your area coordinator is, contact Housing and ask.

Child supervision is very important and is only challenged by the current deployment.

We need to watch out for our children, keep them safe, keep them out of trouble, and keep our neighborhoods functional and orderly.

If you see children without proper supervision, address the issue at that moment.

We've made some good improvements with keeping the areas around the dumpsters near the entrance to Villaggio clean. It is important though to keep this area free of garbage.

First, it makes our community look terrible and trashy. Secondly, it poses a health hazard for our residents and children.

Garbage left on the ground, and not properly disposed of inside a dumpster attracts rats, rodents, mosquitoes and other wildlife.

Finally, the contract garbage disposal handlers do not pick up the trash that is over-flowing from or lying around the dumpsters – our Soldiers do.

If the dumpster is filled, hold on to your garbage until the dumpster is emptied or take to the Ederle Eco-Center at the North 40 Annex. Thank you for your assistance.

Volunteers are a critical component of an Army community in all aspects of morale and events. Our volunteers have been doing an outstanding job but there still remain several community activities (now and upcoming) for our youth that still need volunteers.

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

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do.



Be sure to pick up your trash around the bins. Don't leave it for Soldiers.

Estate claims

Anyone having any claims on, or obligations to the estate of Cpl. Joshua C. Blaney of 1-503rd Inf., 173rd ABCT, should call the SMC, 2nd Lt. Rachael Schenk, at DSN 634-7337 or Rachael.schenk@us.army.mil.

Anyone having claims on, or obligations to the estate of Staff Sgt. Michael J. Gabel of 1-503rd Inf., 173rd ABCT, should call the SMC, Warrant Officer Sharon Simmons, at DSN 634-7262 or Sharon.d.simmons@us.army.mil.

The Outlook

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Community events



1-91 Cav gathers clothes for Afghans

From left, Carmelita Taylor, Christina Hobbs (background), Evelyn Holley and Nadine Foster sort mounds of clothes donated by the community to the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry clothing drive. More than 40 boxes have already been shipped downrange to be distributed to Afghans in 1-91 Cav. operation areas. Donations will continue to be accepted through Jan. 17 at any of the following locations: 1-91 Squadron HQ, Schweinfurt Middle or Elementary School, Askren Manor Recycling Center, Schweinfurt Commissary, Army Community Service Building, and The Commons. (Photo by Sandra Wilson)

Making schools better

Story and photo by
Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

Are you familiar with SIP?

If not a group who meets regularly may help you out and clarify any doubt on the goals and the importance of this process.

Literally, SIP stands for School Improvement Process.

"It is mandatory for all DoDDS schools," said Patricia Cowles, SIP co-chair.

"It's also mandatory for schools in the states if they want to be accredited, because you can go to schools that don't, they would say you graduated but not from an accredited school."

Locally, the process started in fall 2006, when the committee first analyzed the school and identified the needs for higher achievement.

"Our two goals are information literacy and critical skills," explained Lisa O'Neill, Parent/Community committee leader during one of their monthly meetings.

"Our goal is to inform the home and community of what we are doing here at the school with our school improvement process."

After starting with the the new goals, an important segment was to define them through the VMHS students. Teachers began training and started strategies to support the two goals.

"One thing we did in our last staff development SIP Day was we had mini workshops and we had individual teachers, who volunteered to give workshop presentations," said Linda Dahlstrom, SIP Staff Development committee leader.

"Basically, they did different topics from individual teacher's that they can share with fellow faculty members and give them more resources, more tools, more ideas, about how to get the activities going in the classroom that will work on achieving those goals with the students," she explained.

From their side, the students go through assessments to measure improvement.

"We will look at all the results from all the tests and see if we are improving, if we need to make any changes.

"Teachers learn new ways to teach so that students learn those things better," said Cowles.

She also clarified that this is an ongoing cycle, "you are constantly reevaluating and then changing as you go," Cowles added.

The SIP committee has been putting in many hours developing the strategies.

"It is a very complicated process; we have to get a lot of data," said VHS principal Kathleen Reiss.

"Then we have to analyze it to determine where our weak areas are, and come up with ways to rectify these so that we just keep getting better and better.

"The whole staff participates and it is astounding to watch how they work together and how all the members pull their special areas of expertise all together," said Reiss.

Parents are invited to participate in the next In-Service that will be held on Jan. 18 from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the school.

Any portion of the day can be spent with the VMHS teachers to get a better perspective on how they are working on the school improvement process.



School Improvement Process committee leaders meet regularly at the Vicenza Middle/High School to track their progress. Pictured above from left to right are, Eric Torrence, Linda Dahlstrom, Bill Vetarbo, Patty Cowles, Desiree Henry and Lisa O'Neill.



The 67th FSB will be joining their airborne brethren, like these 173rd ABCT paratroopers, in the air again.

67th Forward Surgical Team poised for aerial entry into new year

Story by Chuck Roberts
Landstuhl Regional Medical
Center Public Affairs

LANDSTUHL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, Germany—The 67th Forward Surgical Team will leap in the new year.

During an Airborne Conversion ceremony held at Miesau Ammo Depot, Germany, 20 medical Soldiers from the newly designated 67th FST (Airborne) proudly donned the maroon beret distinguishing them as the only airborne forward surgical team in Europe and one of only five Army-wide.

"There are few opportunities to wear this beret," said Lt. Col. Laura Favand, 67th FST commander. "We do feel honored."

The honor translates into an already lean and mobile medical team taking it to the next level. In their case, it means parachuting into combat with the medical specialties and equipment to provide immediate trauma care near the battlefield.

After initial medical aid by a fellow Soldier or medic on the battlefield, a Forward Surgical Team is often the second level of care in places such as Iraq or Afghanistan.

The teams are designed for what is termed "the golden hour"—the first hour after a Soldier is wounded when they are most likely to die from shock and bleeding. Favand said their main focus is to stop any bleeding and stabilize patients for transport to the next level of care—Combat Support Hospitals.

The 67th FST (Airborne) can be condensed into six Humvees with trailers with enough supplies to remain self-sustained for 72 hours. About half the team and the most essential equipment is designed to arrive by parachute, with the remaining staff and gear landing with the aircraft and then linking up by overland travel. However, the 67th can tailor itself to match the projected needs of any military unit it accompanies.

Achieving the level of expertise to provide such support doesn't come easily. Earning their jump wings requires three weeks of intense training at Fort Benning, Ga., with its physical fitness standards geared more toward 18-year-olds.

At age 40, Favand laughed that she was "the old lady of the airborne school" but successfully accomplished earning the jump wings she once wanted to achieve in Reserve Officer Training Corps

but didn't have the opportunity.

In the future, however, Favand and her team will have ample opportunity to maintain their jumping proficiency with monthly jumps, as well as learning to pack their own parachutes and rig up heavy equipment such as Humvees.

Although parachuting is new to the current members of the 67th FST (Airborne) at Miesau, it isn't new to their predecessors. Based on lessons learned from Operation Desert Storm during the first Gulf War, the 67th FST was activated as the 67th Medical Detachment (Airborne) at Vicenza, Italy, in 1993. As such, the unit saw duty in locations such as Bosnia and Africa where it responded to the U.S. Embassy bombing in Kenya.

The 67th lost its airborne status in 1999. Getting it back, Favand said, has been an exciting experience for Soldiers from the 67th. Eleven have completed the training and six more are scheduled for January.

Being part of the team is strictly voluntary, and Favand said finding Soldiers to fill future vacancies won't be difficult.

"Word has gotten out and a lot of local people are interested in joining."

Community events

3/405th AFSB opens new facilities



The newly completed 3/405th Army Field Support Brigade (AFSB) Maintenance Operations Facility is the first warehouse in the Army Material Command that can store shipment containers two high. Being able to store the containers out of the elements helps keep the containers free of snails, insects and spiders and keeps them customs ready. (Photo by Joyce Costello, USAG Livorno Public Affairs)

Story by Jennifer King
405th Army Field Support
Brigade Public Affairs

SECKENHEIM, Germany—The U.S. Army Materiel Command's commitment to its operations in Italy was clearly visible as the 3/405th Army Field Support Brigade opened a massive construction project worth more than 39 million euros.

"This is a great day for AMC, and a great day for the Camp Darby community," said Lt. Gen. William Mortensen, AMC deputy commanding general and presiding officer of the ceremony. "This is the largest AMC facility in Europe and is a one-of-a-kind facility in the AMC family."

The project, located on the Leghorn Army Depot, consisted of an impressive 5,565 tons of steel, 35,000 cubic meters of concrete, ten kilometers of electrical conduits and more than 16 kilometers of piping. In addition to a new battalion headquarters building, there are state-of-the-art, environmentally

sensitive maintenance bays, wash racks and paint shops, all designed for the efficient refurbishment of military equipment.

"With the completion of this project, our storage capabilities and supporting storage facilities have improved greatly, which, in turn, protects and sustains military assets at a more acceptable level," said Lt. Col. Harvey Robinson, commander of the 3/405th AFSB.

Mortensen was quick to point out that the success of both the project and the battalion relies heavily upon support from our Italian allies.

"We are partners, and we can't operate without them," he said as he praised the battalion's host national workforce. "The opening of these facilities establishes credibility to our commitment to Italy and links our two countries together."

The 3/405th AFSB falls under the command of the 405th AFSB, which is headquartered in Seckenheim, Germany.



The new maintenance operations facility is ready for 3/405th Army Field Support Brigade employees to transition from working in 50-year old facilities to the newly designed building. The interior was specifically engineered without supporting columns in order to facilitate the easy movement of equipment inside. (Photo by Joyce Costello, USAG Livorno Public Affairs)



(Left to right) Cinzia Siciliano and Debora Lomi check out how fast they can log onto their favorite websites using the new computers at the Camp Darby Library. The new systems have larger flat screen monitors, higher processing speeds and new security elements all for the customer's enjoyment.

Ten new reasons to visit the Camp Darby Library

Story and photo by Joyce Costello
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

They are faster and more secure; they are the 10 new computers at the Camp Darby Library.

According to Ronald VanGemert, the Camp Darby librarian, the new systems improve security by having an individual sign in and out of the computer.

"Computer use is linked to their library card, which is tied to their library records," said VanGemert. "We have a large amount of tourists and the new computers will enable us to provide better service for the visitors and residents."

VanGemert said military libraries in Europe are still relevant because they are willing to change.

"We have so much technology that we have seen resurgence in library usage, especially within Generation Y," he said.

"We have several online research databases available, auto repair manuals and several hometown newspapers online.

"We can do interlibrary loans for books and DVD collections. A couple of years ago, you used to request an item and it would take forever to see if it was available.

"Now when you make a request, the librarian can check on the digital USAREUR library catalog and you can get instantly reserve the item you want."

The library services are available to all eligible ID card holders.



Italian and American community members celebrated the arrival of 2008 with a traditional Italian dinner at the Darby Community Club.

Celebrating diversity

Story and photo by Joyce Costello
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

At Camp Darby, Italy, Morale, Welfare and Recreation teamed up with its counterpart, Circolo Ricreativo, the Camp Darby Italian military recreation club, to host the New Year's Eve dinner gala.

"We do quarterly events like this for the service members, families and our Italian employees," said Diane Anderson, MWR Chief of Business and Recreation. "It's important for us to share our culture and our traditions, especially during the holidays."

The joint party had over 200 Italian and American guest in attendance and the four course meal highlighted Italian traditions such as, ravioli salsa noci (ravioli

with nut sauce), Cotechino con lenticchie (stuffed pig's leg with lentils) and panettone (Italian Christmas cake).

"In Italy, lentils symbolize money and good fortune for the New Year and the pig shows good luck in Italian culture," explained long-time Italian volunteer Arturo Bazzocchi.

He added he likes to help out at events like this because he cares about this community and think it's important to show teamwork in action. "For me, this post is like a family and it's nice to have a chance to share my Italian taste and style," said Bazzocchi.

The next joint American-Italian event at Camp Darby will be a celebration in support of Black history month with a Battle of the DJs on Feb. 1.

Darby Dates

ITR trips

IKEA shopping trip

Jan. 12, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Cost is \$20 for adults and \$15 for children between 3-10 years.

Find everything you need to spruce up your home, and there's even a nursery for the little ones.

Ducati & Lamborghini museums

Jan. 18, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
\$55 for transportation

See first-hand the most spectacular 45 pieces of the unforgettable Ducati collection. The Lamborghini Gallery boasts an impressive display of autos such as the Miura, Diablo and F1 Lotus. Both museums are free, but bring Euro for lunch and souvenirs.

Antique market in Lucca

Jan. 19, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$15 for transportation.

One of the most popular markets in Italy with more than over 300 exhibitors of antique furniture, toys, clothing, linen, and jewelry.

Carnevale in Viareggio

Jan. 20, 3 p.m. - 10 p.m.
\$15 for transportation, plus entrance fees

Enjoy one of the liveliest carnivals in Italy. Revel in the street fair atmosphere that includes a parade of lavishly decorated floats.

Assisi trip

Jan. 21, 7 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
\$25 for transportation
Visit the birthplace of St. Francis, a beautiful village nestled in the hills of Umbria.

City sightseeing tickets

Discover the wealth of history of Italian cities on board the "Hop On - Hop Off" buses. Get on and off as often as you want for the entire day.

Discover the lovely cities of Pisa, Florence and Rome at discounted prices for savings up to \$3.67 per person.

For more info or to make a reservation, contact ITR at DSN 633-7589/8231 or CIV 050 54 7589/8231

Army Community Service

Army Family Action Plan is coming Jan. 30-31.

Prepare now to let your voice be heard. Volunteers needed for delegates, facilitators, recorders, transcribers and helpers.

Stop by ACS to volunteer and learn more.

Call ACS for additional info: DSN 633-7084 or CIV 00 39 050 54 7084.

Downrange

They just call her Doc...

Story and photos by
Pfc. Daniel M. Rangel
22nd Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

NANGARHAR, Afghanistan — “It’s a very prestigious thing to be called ‘Doc’ when you’re around people that you work with,” said Army Pfc. Sarah Becker, 173rd Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), Special Troops Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Military Police platoon. “It means that they respect you. It’s not about the rank, it’s about what you can do for them.”

Becker has spent most of the year deployed as an medic gaining the respect of Sky Soldiers across the Nangarhar Province. She is a young and petite Soldier, now spending much of her time teaching Afghan National Police personnel her specialty and held her last class in December in Jalalabad.

This isn’t the first class she’s taught either. Becker estimates she has conducted between 20 to 30 classes since she’s been in Afghanistan. Her supervisor, Staff Sgt. Victor M. Diaz, explained why

there is such a high demand for these classes.

“We always get new (ANP) coming in,” Diaz said. “So we’re constantly training the new personnel for each situation such as how to give first aid, how to react to contact and so on.”

The classes focus on first-responder care. Afghan National Security Forces are frequently faced with life or death situations on the battlefield and their knowledge of first aid can save many of their own lives. Although the classes are focused on battlefield situations, ANSF forces are encouraged to take their new knowledge of first aid to help their local communities with more common health issues.

Diaz explained that Becker is a competent and thorough professional in the field or the classroom.

“She does an outstanding job. She knows what she’s doing,” Diaz said. “When she gives a class, she goes step-by-step. She doesn’t miss any steps. Soldiers ask her questions and she answers in detail. That’s the way that we want her to do it.”

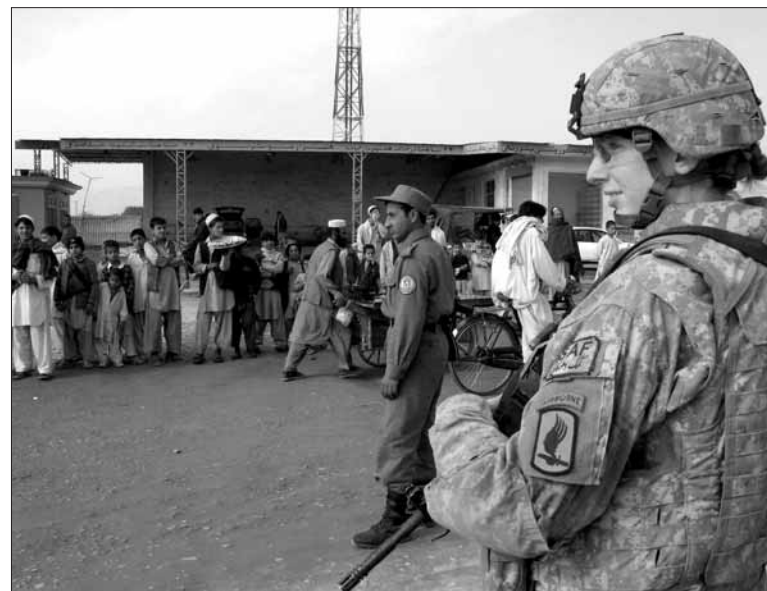
Becker’s last class focused on having an ANP platoon learn the meaning of the acronym MARCH.

“MARCH is an acronym that one of my senior ranking (noncommissioned officers) taught me,” Becker said. “It stands for Massive hemorrhage, Airway, Respiration, Circulation and Head trauma. It’s all things that you should look at in your initial assessment as you’re packaging up your casualty to get them on to higher facility care.”

Becker’s instruction sticks with her students who practice the techniques she teaches, said ANP 2nd Lt. Abdul Waqaf, operation team leader.

“We review it with our Soldiers,” Waqaf said. “We get a lot of good training from (Coalition Forces). If we don’t review than we will not be able to remember.”

ANSF listen to Becker because she brings with her ample combat experience. Over the past summer she was attached to the 66th Military Police Co. in Camp Torkham near the Pakistani border in Nangarhar Province. She has been on convoys that have been



Pfc. Sarah Becker, 173rd Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), Special Troops Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Military Police platoon, pulls security at a bridge with Afghan National Police after her first aid class concluded in Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

attacked while with the 66th MPs and has treated numerous combat injuries.

“I actually had four traumas that I took care of,” Becker said. “They were on different days (only) about a week apart.”

When she’s not conducting a class or treating injuries, Becker is pulling security like every other Soldier in her platoon.

“The number one priority every time we get out of the vehicle is to pull security,” Becker said.

The life of a combat medic is stressful, the missions are plenty and the hours are long, but Becker handles the challenge well and manages to keep the spirits up of the Sky Soldiers she works with.

“She’s very friendly, she’s kind. She’s a hard worker,” Diaz said. “She’s constantly going on missions because she’s the only medic we have in the platoon. If we have two missions in one day, she has to go on both missions. We’ll come back from one and she’ll jump from one vehicle and go into the other. She never complains.”

Becker is a well of inspiration to those around her. She loves the people in her unit and the local Afghans, especially the children. Her inspiration comes from helping people.

“Being a medic I get to help people,” Becker said. “I get to not only help U.S. Soldiers but I help the kids too. And as you can see it puts a smile on my face.”



Pfc. Sarah Becker, 173rd Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), Special Troops Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Military Police platoon, conducts a first aid class with the help of an Afghan National Police volunteer in Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

Now Showing

Caserma Ederle Theater

Jan. 9	American Gangster (R)	6 p.m.
Jan. 10	Dan in Real Life (PG-13)	6 p.m.
Jan. 11	Martian Child (PG)	6 p.m.
	The Bucket List (PG-13) (1st Run)	9 p.m.
Jan. 12	Bee Movie (PG)	3 p.m.
	Fred Claus (PG)	6 p.m.
Jan. 13	Bee Movie (PG)	3 p.m.
	The Bucket List (PG-13) (1st Run)	6 p.m.

Camp Darby Theater

Jan. 10	Fred Claus (PG)	6 p.m.
Jan. 11	National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG)	6 p.m.
Jan. 12	National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG)	6 p.m.
Jan. 13	Bee Movie (PG)	2 p.m.

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

Movie Synopsis

BEE MOVIE - Annette Bening, Chris Rock
Barry B. Benson is a graduate bee fresh out of college who is disillusioned at his lone career choice: making honey. On a rare trip outside the hive, Barry’s life is saved by Vanessa, a florist in New York City. As their relationship blossoms, he discovers humans are mass consumers of honey and decides to sue the human race for stealing bees’ honey.
Rated PG (suggestive humor, brief description of smoking) 100

Marketplace
is
currently
under the
weather.
Thank you for
your patience
as the Doctors
fix the problem.

US ARMY
MWR
FOR ALL OF YOUR LIFE

Community notes

Vicenza food court closures

Popeye's will be closed from Jan. 15-20.

Anthony's Pizza will be closed from Jan. 21-27.

Taco Bell will be closed from Jan. 28-3.

The closures are due to regular maintenance and repairs.

It's a New Year, time for a brand-new class

SKIES Unlimited is offering an all-new class: Voice Lessons for youth, ages 6-18, at Villaggio FCC room on Mondays and Fridays by appointment. Call CYS for details at 634-8051.

Imagine your stress away

ACS and Family Advocacy teaches you the ancient techniques of guided imagery in order to help reduce unwanted stress in your life. Can it work for you? Find out on Jan. 7, 14, & 28 from noon-1 p.m. Reservation is required so call 634-7314 today.

Women of Vicenza: Stand Strong

Develop Self-Defense skills on Jan. 12 & 26, at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Join Deployment Special Events and Family Advocacy to learn: Safety, Self-awareness, Prevention, Protection, Strength, Confidence, and Ability. Reservation is required, call 634-7500.

MOMS Club events

Everyone is invited,
Infant Playgroup
Jan. 18, 11:00 a.m., EDIS
Exercise class (bring kids) at the Post Gym 2nd Floor Jan. 18, 1:30 p.m., Jan. 25, 1:30 p.m.

MOMS Club monthly meeting

Jan. 28, 10:00 a.m. at the chapel
For more information regarding MOMS Club and our activities please email

momsclubofvicenza@yahoo or contact Deanna at 0444945105 or Amber at 3347008443.

Give your home some TLC

Nothing adds more appeal to a room than a new piece of stylish furniture. On Jan. 23, ITR gives you the inside track to one of the best wood furniture makers outside Verona. Browse the pieces online www.sommacal.com and then see them for yourself firsthand. Call ITR, 634-7094.

Woodwork your own candle holder

Arts & Crafts teaches you basic woodworking skills as you create your own candle holder, a great center-piece! Build self-confidence as you use the jointer, table saw, planer, router, drill press and sander. FREE on Jan. 18, at 11 a.m. Sign up by Jan. 16, call 634-7074.

American Red Cross: January and February course schedule.

Visit office for details and to register for all classes listed below.

Thurs., Jan. 10: First Aid 5 p.m.-9 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 12: Adult, Child and Infant CPR 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 26: Free Babysitter's Training 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 9: Adult, Child and Infant CPR 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 23: Free Babysitter's Training 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Want to help the community?

Have you thought about becoming a Health & Safety Instructor?

Sign-up now for the Feb. 22-25 training course.

Still thinking about being a volunteer?

Volunteer Orientation is held the

first Tuesday of every month.

The American Red Cross, Vicenza, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Davis Hall Bldg 108, Room 47. From the Vicenza community call DSN: 634-7089 or COMM: 0444-71-7089

An emergency communications caseworker can be reached 24/7.

Acoustic guitar jam

Soldier's Theatre is delighted to feature the talented Roberto Dalla Vecchia for two nights of folk-bluegrass Acoustic Guitar tunes with his signature flatpick style, Jan. 25 & 26 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets go on sale Jan. 8 for \$8. Call 634-7281.

Collect the clues about your family tree

Dig deep: who knows what you'll unearth in the roots of your own Family Tree. Starting at 6 p.m. on Jan. 15, the Post Library invites you to a free, 4-week, 1 hour Genealogy Workshop. Jot down pieces of the puzzle by interviewing your family, collect the clues by writing your personal history and forecast your future by looking to your past. For more details, call 634-8418.

Parent to Parent

On Tuesday, Jan. 22 Vicenza Parent 2 Parent invites you and your child to join us for an hour of play and friendship.

If your household does not have the Sesame Street DVD, Talk, Listen, and Connect- Helping Families During Military Deployment, then this is your chance to get a free copy. For more information please contact Nancy November at vicenzaparent2parent@hotmail.com or call 328-054-9709.

Education Center services and programs

Registration in progress for Term III which runs from January 21, 2008 to March 15, 2008. All Soldiers using Tuition Assistance must go to the www.GoArmyEd.com website to enroll. Please contact the Education Counselor for more information and assistance at 634-8933 or vicenza.edcenter@us.army.mil.

Registration is in progress for the Gateway to Italian conversational language courses which runs from Jan. 28, to March 21, 2008. For more information please contact: Angelo Sibilla at 634-7698 or angelo.sibilla@europe.ctcd.edu.

The Education Counselor Office is open Monday through Friday 8:00am to 5:00 pm (Closed 12:00pm to 1:00 pm for lunch). Please contact the Education Counselor for more information at 634-8933 or vicenza.edcenter@us.army.mil

The Army Learning Center computer lab and study lounge is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 8:00am to 12:00pm & 1:00pm to 5:00pm. Classrooms are available for recognized groups or units to use for meetings and classes. Please call 634-8926 or vicenza.alc@us.army.mil to reserve classroom/meeting space or for

more information.

The Testing office is open Tuesday through Friday from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

Closed noon to 1 p.m. for lunch (schedule may vary depending on exams).

Academic and military testing is available. Please call 634-8126 or vicenza.testing@us.army.mil for more information.

VCC Scholarships

Are you a Vicenza Community Club (VCC) member or family member and interested in furthering your education?

This year's Scholarship application packets will be available for pick-up at the Post Thrift Shop, Library or Davis Hall beginning Jan. 15.

High School Seniors do not need to be VCC members and can pick up application packets from their high school guidance counselor. All scholarship applications must be completed and postmarked by Feb. 29, 2008. For more information call Danielle Bentz at 320.378.1586 or ezds4fam@yahoo.com.

Direct a musical

Soldier's Theatre is seeking a Music Director/Keyboard Player/Conductor for upcoming musicals: "Really Rosie" and "All Gershwin!" Desired Qualifications: experience with Army Community Theatre, familiar with American Folk, Classical and Broadway Musical Theatre. Contract is to run from Jan. 11-May 11, 2008. Please contact NAFCO, Paola Liberatore at 0444-717234.

Crop & Company Scrapbooking

Arts & Crafts invites you to bring your scrappin' ideas and photos to this FREE mini-class on Jan. 15, 5p.m.-7p.m. Get caught up on your albums! Sign up by Jan. 13 and call with any questions, 634-7074.

Field office assistant - Job vacancy

The American Red Cross, is seeking a self-motivated individual to perform a variety of office administration duties including preparing correspondence, reports, vouchers; entering data into system; making travel and meeting arrangements; and filing.

Provide support for financial transactions in all aspects of the station operations including biweekly transmission of data to national headquarters.

Assist in the administration and provide direct support to designated Red Cross programs, including logistical duties such as scheduling classes, ordering supplies, collecting and processing course fees, and coordinating instructors.

May provide emergency communications, casework service, financial assistance, information and referral services. May assist in the recruitment and training of volunteers.

Qualified applicants must have strong computer skills. Associate degree or equivalent knowledge

Religious Activities

Ederle Chapel

For details call the chapel at: 634-7519 (0444-71-7519).

Weekday Mass

Mass is now held at noon Wednesday-Monday.

Saturday services

4-4:30 p.m.: Sacrament of Reconciliation, or by appointment
5 p.m.: Roman Catholic Mass

Sunday services

9 a.m.: Catholic Mass
10:45 a.m.-noon: Catholic Religious Education
11 a.m.: Protestant worship
1:30 p.m.: Full Gospel Pentecostal worship and Children's church
4 p.m.: Lutheran Services
6 p.m.: Contemporary worship

Muslim services

The khutba and prayer will take place in the post chapel conference room Fridays, just after noon.

Jewish servies

For details regarding traditional; Jewish meals and services, contact Dr. Steven or Nancy November at november6@msn.com.

Club Beyond

For details about Club Beyond youth activities, contact the chapel or Jocelyn Cary at 340-385-3476.

Darby Chapel

For details call the chapel at: 633-7267 (50-54-7267).

8:30 a.m.: Catholic Reconciliation
9:30 a.m.: Catholic Mass

11:15 a.m.: Protestant worship

and work experience is preferred. Knowledge of Red Cross programs and services, or other community services, and a familiarity with military culture is desirable. Applicants must be US citizens and be command sponsored and/or have access to post with their own ID card.

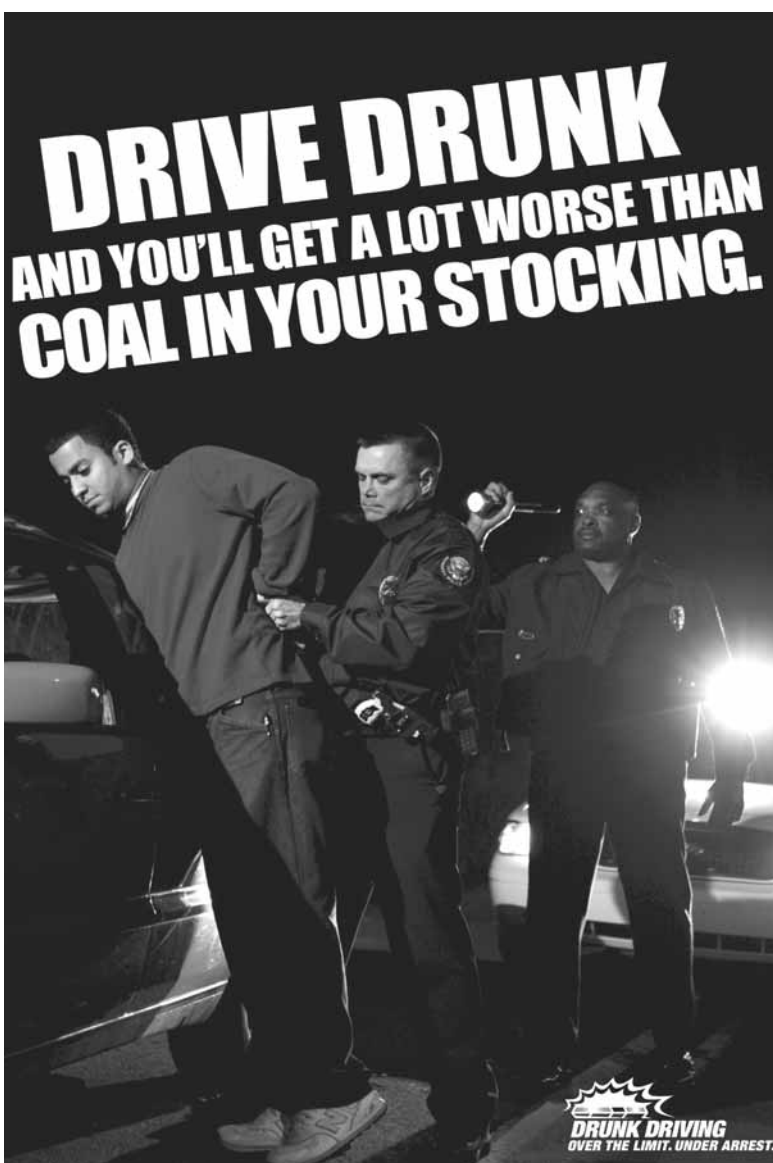
Qualified applicants should submit resumes on or before Jan. 31, by going to www.redcross.org/jobs and selecting position number 6536BR.

Vicenza Community Club

The New Year is here and the annual CIAO conference is fast approaching.

This year's conference is shaping up to be a fabulous experience. We'll have great guest speakers and many informative classes. If you would like to participate in the planning of the CIAO conference, or if you have any ideas that you would like to share please attend the next CIAO Committee Meeting we will meet on Jan. 14 at 11:30 in Cafe' Centrale.

All VCC members are invited and welcome to join the CIAO Committee. If you cant make it please contact Erica Sergeant at ericasergent@gmail.com



Bantam basketball back

Pint-sized basketball action takes to the Vicenza courts

Story and photos by
Gary L. Kieffer
Outlook Editor

On Saturday afternoon the gym was filled with the noise of shouting parents and dribbling balls as the Child and Youth Services Bantam Basketball League, for 10-12 year old boys and girls, started off with its first games of the season. Five teams battled it out for six games. The competition and skill level seemed to improve with each game.

The first game saw the Sharks devour the Green Giants 37-2.

"We got crushed," said Green Giant's volunteer coach Gene Tramm. "We have alot of work to do, and plenty to practice."

"The kids had a great time. I was impressed with how they performed," said Shark's coach Jeffrey Craig. "It was good to see that they used what we had practiced."

The second game was mainly about defense, as the Black Knights defeated the Blue Magic 12-6.

"The kids just played outstanding," said Knight's coach Maro Gilbert. "We practiced before the hokiday break and it shows."

"The kids really enjoyed themselves out there," said Magic coach Maria Escobedo. "They played with lots of heart. We have some learning to do though."

The final games of the season openers had the Green Giants coming back in a squeaker over the Rockets, 22-20.

"The guys did great," said Rocket's coach John Segura. "We have to work more on the fundamentals, but they played well together."

"They started playing together," said Giant's coach Tramm. "It was amazing to see the difference between the two games. They were very impressive this time out."

"This was the first game for all of these kids," said referee Robert Johnson. "They have to get used to playing each other and with the referees. By the end of the year it's amazing to see how they have progressed."

So if you are looking for some pint-sized basketball action, come down to the gym opposite the Ederle Inn on Saturday's for some interesting games. These little players may not be polished yet, but they put on a terrific show.

(Above, Left) Shark's No. 44, Nate Walker drives to the basket for a layup, as No. 43, Jesse Rivas guards his movements. (Above, Right) He may be the smallest player in the league, but Rocket's No. 0, Anthony Cruz-Gonzalez doesn't let that hold him back, as he leaps to block a layup from the opposing team. (Right) Rocket's No. 15, Linæ Myhand leaps her shot over the definding Green Giant players to add another two points to their score.



(Top, Left) Black Knight's No. 42, Tatiana Miranda beats out the defense for a jump shot and two points in their game against the Blue Magic. (Above, Right) The Shark's No. 43, Jesse Rivas drives for his two points in another layup against the Green Giant's defense. (Above, Left) Girl's can shoot too, as Blue Magic's No. 10 leaps in the air sending her shot towards the basket.



Sports shorts

Bike around Vicenza

Starting in January Outdoor Rec can equip you with the know-how of basic bicycle maintenance with \$15 classes (\$5 for additional classes). Then hit the streets and mountains of Vicenza with your smooth ride. Look for the calendar around post or call ODR at 634-7453.

Martin Luther King Jr. 5K Fun Walk/Run

Come out Jan. 12 for a 5Km Fun Walk/Run at North-40 track, 11 a.m. (pre-briefing 10:45a.m.). It's free and fun. Sign up now, call 634-7009.

Darby Outdoor Recreation skiing

Jan. 12, 26 Abetone. Jan. 5, 19 Monte Cimone.

Transportation- \$10
Transportation and one hour ski orientation costs \$10. Transportation with skis or snowboard rental- \$20

Bus Schedule to Abetone: Bus departs 6:30 a.m. Bus returns 6 p.m.

To Monte Cimone: Bus departs 6 a.m. Bus returns 6:30 p.m.

You must be registered by Friday at 3 p.m. Twelve participants maximum. Ski pass is not included.

Call Outdoor Recreation for more : 050-54-7775 DSN: 633-7775.

Hit the snowy slopes

Hey, skiers and snowboarders, Outdoor Rec delivers again: This time to San Martino on Jan. 12. Get your name on the list to go, call 634-7453.

Racquetball tourney

Bring your Racquetball game to the Post Fitness Center on Jan. 18, 6:30 p.m. This tournament is free to enter, open for adult men and women, singles and doubles, and features beginner, intermediate and advanced categories to place in. Questions? Call Sports & Fitness, 634-7009.

Women of Vicenza: Stand strong

Develop Self-Defense skills on Jan. 12 & 26, at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Join Deployment Special Events and Family Advocacy to learn: safety, self-awareness, prevention, protection, strength, confidence, and ability. Reservation is required, call DSN 634-7500.