



## Chosen Company holds memorial for Steele in Grafenwoehr



An honor guard renders the 21-gun salute in honor of Sgt. Andrew C. Steele, Chosen Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry (Airborne) during a memorial ceremony held Sunday at the Camp Aachen Theater in Grafenwoehr, Germany. (Photo by SPC Henry Selzer, 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs)

By Staff Sgt. Jacob Caldwell  
173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Soldiers from Chosen Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry (Airborne) held a memorial ceremony in honor of Sgt. Andrew C. Steele Sunday at the Camp Aachen Theater in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

Steele died in a car accident Jan. 14 in Vicenza, Italy.

Steele, of Anaheim, Ca. enlisted in the Army as an infantryman on July 7, 2000. He served his first tour in Korea as a member of 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry in Camp Greaves. His following assignment was with the 3rd Infantry Division in Fort Stewart, Ga. There, he deployed to Iraq and served as a team leader.

Steele came to the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat team in July 2006.

In his short time with the 173rd, Steele made a strong impression on those with whom he served.

"Leaders always know when a strong and professional Soldier is present. That was Sergeant Steele," said Capt. Matthew Myer, commander of Chosen Company, 2-503d. "He made a difference though his example in all that he did. Reliable, professional, hungry to do a good job, tireless and committed, Andrew led and really cared for his men.

"An unwavering professional,

his tragic loss will always be felt in this company," continued Myer.

1st Lt. Matthew Ferrara, 1st Platoon Leader, Chosen Company, worked closely with Steele and remembered him fondly.

"I think the impact of Sergeant Steele's loss finally hit me this last Tuesday when I was ordering ACU nametapes in the tailor shop," said Ferrara, "I saw amidst all the other rucksacks waiting on the floor, one waiting for an owner who would never pick it up.

"He always had a smile on his face. That was him. Always such a positive attitude," said Ferrara. "I don't know what the next world holds for him, but this one will surely be less without him."

Capt. David Schnarr, 2-503d Inf

Bde Chaplain, spent time with several Soldiers who worked for, and with, Steele.

"If anyone needed help, Sergeant Steele was there. If he could help in any fashion, he would. He saw it as his duty; an honor to help someone," said Schnarr. "He was a great guy. You will never hear anyone say anything bad about him."

Steele successfully completed the U.S. Army Airborne School, Air Assault School, Warriors Leader's Course and the Combat Lifesaver's Course.

His awards include the Expert Infantryman Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge, the Army Commendation Medal and five Army Achievement Medals.



Soldiers from 2-503d Inf (Abn) pay tribute to the memory of Sgt. Andrew C. Steele during the memorial service held Sunday in Grafenwoehr. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jacob Caldwell, 173d ABCT Public Affairs)

### Converting to NSPS soon?

## Frequently asked questions, answers about NSPS

Directorate of Human Resources  
USAG Vicenza

**Editor's Note:** Throughout 2007, Vicenza and Livorno General Schedule employees will transition to the National Security Personnel System. Supervisors of GS employees and GS employees will be affected by this transition, and training to prepare for NSPS is available.

Below is part one of a three-part series of Q&As on NSPS that will appear in the Outlook.

**Q: What advantages does NSPS offer to me?**

A: Employees will be recognized and rewarded based on their personal contributions towards our nation's defense.

Employees will be encouraged to take ownership of their performance and successes. Employees and their supervisors will have open communications so that employees know what's expected.

Increases in pay will be based on employee performance and mission contribution.

NSPS promotes broader skill development and advancement opportunities in pay bands.

**Q: Will employees lose salary when converted to NSPS?**

A: No. Employees will convert into NSPS based on their permanent position of record without a loss of pay. In many cases, employees will actually receive a salary increase equal to the amount they have earned towards their next within grade increase (WGI).

**Q: Will employees at Step 10 receive a WGI buy-in?**

A: Employees at Step 10 are not eligible for a WGI buy-in because they have already

received all 10 step increases under the GS system. The WGI buy-in is a process used during conversion to NSPS to pay employees for time spent working towards their next step increase.

**Q: What happens to my retirement, health insurance, and other benefits when I convert to NSPS?**

A: NSPS does not affect rules governing retirement benefits and eligibility, health and life insurance, leave, attendance, and other similar benefits.

**Q: How will my appraisal ratings be converted to NSPS?**

A: DoD employees who convert into NSPS and have a non-NSPS rating of record above unacceptable on file at that time will be assigned a Level 3 rating.

DoD employees who convert into NSPS with an unacceptable rating will be assigned a Level 1 rating.

The converted rating of record will be replaced as the employee is assigned an NSPS rating of record during the annual performance cycle.

**Q: How will employees in developmental positions receive pay increases after converting to NSPS?**

A: Like all other employees covered by NSPS, employees in developmental positions are eligible for performance-based pay in recognition of their performance and contributions to the mission. The employee's performance must be at Level 3 or higher.

The performance payout may be in the form of a salary increase, bonus, or combination thereof.

Additionally, employees assigned to Pay Band 1 of Professional, Analytical, or Investigative pay schedules are eligible for pay increases under the Accelerated Compensation for Developmental Positions.

ACDP is an increase to employee's base salary, bonus, or combination thereof, and is available to employees participating in Component training programs or other developmental capacities.

At any time after conversion to NSPS, management may use ACDP to increase an employee's base salary within Pay Band 1.

To qualify for ACDP, an employee must have a rating of record of Level 3 or higher.

Another type of pay increase is promotion from Pay Band 1 to Pay Band 2.

Employees are eligible for this promotion non-competitively because they have already competed for the next higher level.

When management promotes employees from Pay Band 1 to Pay Band 2, employees are eligible to receive a significant pay increase.

During the first 12 months following conversion, employees who are not eligible for the ACDP provision (not in Pay Band 1) are eligible to receive pay increases for noncompetitive promotion equivalents when:

- ◆ Grade level of the promotion is encompassed within the same pay band;
- ◆ Employee's performance warrants the pay increase; and
- ◆ Promotion would have otherwise occurred during that period.

**Q: Do employees need to do anything to ensure their position converts to NSPS?**

A: No. Their conversion to NSPS happens automatically based on their permanent position of record.

**Q: How do employees find out when their organization converts to NSPS?**

A: Supervisors are the best first source. In Vicenza, contact Dave Hamilton, Vicenza CPAC director, at 634-7537, or to the Web site: [www.usag.vicenza.army.mil](http://www.usag.vicenza.army.mil) and click on the NSPS logo. That will open up a form where you can submit an issue.

**Q: How will an employee on pay retention be converted to NSPS?**

A: At the time of conversion, the employee will be converted to a career group, pay schedule, and pay band based on his or her permanent position of record (not the former position used for pay retention determination).

If the base salary exceeds the rate range for the assigned pay band, he or she will be granted pay retention for two years starting on the day of conversion to NSPS.

At the end of the two years, the base salary is fixed at the maximum rate of the pay band to which he or she is assigned.

For more information on NSPS visit the Army's NSPS Web site at <http://cpol.army.mil/library/general/nsps>.

**Remember Force Protection when out and about**  
Don't stick out in a crowd - Dress and speak low-key.  
Take a look at your vehicle - Does it yell, "I'm American"?  
Be aware of your surroundings - Who's watching YOU?  
Be aware of your conversations - Who's listening?  
Avoid crowds - if it looks like a group is forming- LEAVE.



# Tax Center offers free tax preparation for simple, complex returns

By Mark Christensen  
Chief, Client Services  
Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

The USASETAF Tax Center is now open. All services at the Tax Center are **FREE OF CHARGE**, and include the following:

- ◆ Electronic preparation and filing of your 2007 state and federal income tax returns
- ◆ Direct deposit of state and federal refunds to your account
- ◆ Select IRS forms and publications
- ◆ Preparation of prior year returns
- ◆ Preparation of Puerto Rico returns
- ◆ Assistance obtaining Taxpayer Identification Numbers for non-U.S. citizen family members
- ◆ General information and assistance concerning income tax obligations

Income tax assistance is provided by clerks, paralegals, and lawyers who have received IRS and Army income tax instruction, and includes preparation of returns using TaxWise software and IRS forms.

Individuals eligible for free tax assistance include active duty and retired soldiers, U.S. civilian employees (DOD, DA, NAF, AAFES, and DoDEA), and their family members.

## Simple State and Federal Income Tax Returns

Taxpayers who will file a simple 2006 return can come to the Tax Center on a walk-in basis for assistance, or can drop-off documents for preparation. Simple returns are those supported by

information commonly issued by employers, banks, or other agencies reporting income or expenses during 2006, including:

- ◆ Ordinary wage income reported on a W-2
- ◆ Interest and dividend income (banks and mutual funds)
- ◆ Ordinary capital gains (mutual funds)
- ◆ IRA distributions or contributions (Traditional and Roth)
- ◆ Pension income reported on a 1099R
- ◆ Social Security income
- ◆ Child care payments
- ◆ Education expenses, including student loan interest
- ◆ Moving expenses

## Walk-In Tax Services

Walk-in services are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. and 1-4 p.m.

## Evening Hours

The Tax Center will be open until 7 p.m. on three consecutive Thursdays: Feb. 22, March 1, and March 8.

## Weekend Hours

The Tax Center will be open 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Feb. 24, and March 3.

## Complicated State and Federal Income Tax Returns

Complicated return assistance is available as a drop-off service, for those with:

- ◆ Business income or loss
- ◆ Foreign income tax
- ◆ 1099B capital gain or loss

- ◆ Schedule K-1 income or loss
- ◆ Rental real estate
- ◆ Puerto Rico return filing requirement
- ◆ Foreign earned income
- ◆ Prior year return (2005 or prior year)

Individuals with complicated tax issues may drop off their tax documents any time the Legal Assistance Office is open, Monday through Friday, 0800-1200 and 1300-1700. Complicated returns will be prepared in the order received, and will normally be completed

within five business days.

## Checklist of Documents or Information to Bring to the Tax Center

- Social Security numbers for all family members
- Bank information for direct deposit: Account number and bank 9-digit Routing Transit Number
- Income documents and information:
  - W-2s

- Rental property income
- 1099s
- Foreign income and tax statements
  - Investment statements
  - Alimony received
  - Non-U.S. income statements
  - Alaska Permanent Fund receipts
  - Kindergeld* receipts (in \$ or € or other currency)
- Expense documents and information:
  - Teacher classroom expenses
  - Rental property expense records
  - Unreimbursed moving expenses
  - IRA contribution information
  - Education costs
  - Unreimbursed medical expenses
  - Student loan interest paid
  - Home property tax and mortgage interest
  - Child care expenses
  - Charitable contributions
  - Alimony paid
  - Adoption expenses
  - Capital gain/loss purchase price information

## Do-It-Yourself!

Individuals with less than \$52,000 of adjusted gross income can electronically prepare and file returns for free at the IRS website, [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

Click on the **2007 Free File** link! Servicemembers can also electronically prepare and file 2006 returns online at no charge by going to the Military One Source site, [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com).

Look for the **Free Tax Service** link.



Mark Christensen, Client Services chief, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, helps a Soldier with his tax return. (Outlook file photo)

## Deadline looming for Army ROTC Green to Gold active duty option programs

From the SETAF G-1 office  
Special to the Outlook

The Reserve Officer Training Corps Green to Gold active duty option program provides eligible, active duty enlisted Soldiers an opportunity to complete a baccalaureate degree or graduate degree and be commissioned as Army officers upon receiving the appropriate degree.

The "Green to Gold" ROTC Scholarships for academic School Year 2007-2008 can be awarded to all Soldiers located in Vicenza, Bamberg and Schweinfurt.

Maj. Gen. Frank G. Helmick, SETAF commander, will chose three Soldiers from applications received for ROTC scholarships.

Once selected, the Soldier will have the option to terminate his or her active duty status and attend school full time, or compete for the ROTC Green to Gold active duty option program.

Should the chosen Soldier opt to terminate his or her active duty status, he or she will discharged from active duty for the sole purpose of enrolling as an Army ROTC scholarship cadet. Soldiers selected must

have no more than two academic years remaining to complete a baccalaureate or graduate degree.

The ROTC scholarship will provide financial assistance toward college tuition and educational fees, OR room and board, whichever is chosen by the student. Financial assistance is awarded for two years, and includes:

- ◆ \$900 per year for books and supplies for two years.
- ◆ A monthly stipend up to \$400 per month, depending on their academic status, up to ten months per year.
- ◆ Serve in the military for a period of eight years.

This may be formed as four years of active duty followed by service in the Army Reserve National Guard, U.S. Army Reserve, or Individual Ready Reserve, or as eight years of service in an ARNG or USAR Troop Program Unit

Should the chosen Soldier opt to remain on active duty in their current rank, the following applies:

- ◆ Cadet is not eligible for the scholarship benefits outlined above.
- ◆ Cadet receives full active duty pay, allowances and other authorized benefits while in the program (up to 21 consecutive months or a maximum of 24 months,

if approved by cadet command).

◆ Soldiers selected are responsible for their educational expenses; e.g., tuition, books, and fees.

◆ Soldiers selected may utilize any portion of the Montgomery GI Bill/Army College Fund benefits they have earned since entering the military. However, Soldiers selected to participate in this program are not authorized to use tuition assistance.

◆ Serve in the military for a period of eight years. This includes serving on active duty for three years, followed by service in the ARNG or USAR or the IRR.

**All applications for School Year 2007/08 must be received by the SETAF G1 office no later than Jan. 31.** The SETAF G1 office is located in bldg 3, on the second floor.

Direct questions to Katrina Reyter, SETAF G1, at 634-7454.

The SETAF G1 will board application to the SETAF commanding general for final selection by Feb. 28 to meet the submission deadline of April 1.

The complete application and procedures can be downloaded from the Web Site: [www.rotc.usaac.army.mil](http://www.rotc.usaac.army.mil).

## Tax deadlines, other important information you need to know

2006 Tax returns are due April 16, 2007.

If you are outside the U.S. on April 16, 2007, your filing deadline is June 15, 2007.

**However, if you owe money on your taxes, you must pay the tax by April 16, 2007 to avoid any penalty or interest, even if you are outside the U.S. on that day.**

If you served in a Combat Zone, your tax filing date is 180 days after you depart the

Combat Zone, or your regular filing date (April 16 or June 15), whichever is later.

Send e-mail questions to: [tax@eur.army.mil](mailto:tax@eur.army.mil)

Go to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for forms, publications, and more information.

The Tax Center is co-located with the Legal Office, Building 241, 6th Avenue, Caserma Ederle. Our telephone number is 634-7041, or 0444-71-7041 from off post.

## Fitness center gym to renovate

Sports and Fitness Center  
Press Release

The Sports and Fitness Center will be going through a few changes as we continue to keep up with the community's needs.

MWR aims to create the best fitness facility possible, which means we have to work on a moment's notice when we get the go ahead.

Below are upcoming dates when the flooring will be replaced in the large cardio room. This may mean clients will have to adjust workout schedules.

Jan. 22-26: The flooring on the mezzanine level in the large cardio room (where the CYBEX machines are) will be replaced and this area

will be closed during this period.

Jan. 29-Feb. 2: The black flooring in the large cardio room (recumbent and upright bikes) will also be replaced. This room will be closed at this time, but some machines will be relocated to the treadmill room and racquetball court #3.

Feb. 5-9: The red flooring in the large cardio room (primarily cross-trainers and steppers) will be replaced. The large cardio room will be closed at this time, but again, some machines will be relocated to the treadmill room and racquetball court #3.

We apologize for any inconvenience, but you will have a nicer looking gym in the near future.

Please direct any questions to the Sports Office at 634-7616.



## Know, salute Italian ranks

Sgt. David Hopkins  
SETAF Public Affairs Office

Rendering honors to officers of foreign nations is more than a way of showing respect, it's military policy.

When Soldiers come into the American military they are immediately trained on how to identify American rank, but they are not trained on the identification of international ranks. In the joint environment of today's military it's important that all Soldiers recognize the rank structure of all the countries with which they interact.

"A military organization can not work without rank," said Col. Aldo Rando, USAG Vicenza Italian liaison officer. "It can not work without the recognition of authority, especially in a multinational effort."

According to Field Manual 7-21, a hand salute should be rendered to officers of friendly foreign countries, which includes Italian officers. But many Soldiers don't know how to identify Italian officers.

"I know Soldiers are supposed to salute [the Italian officers] the same as American officers," said Spc. Joon Choi, administration specialist, G-1, "but honestly, I don't know all the ranks."

The militaries of many countries have different ways of saluting, but that does not change the way American Soldiers salute all officers – foreign and American.

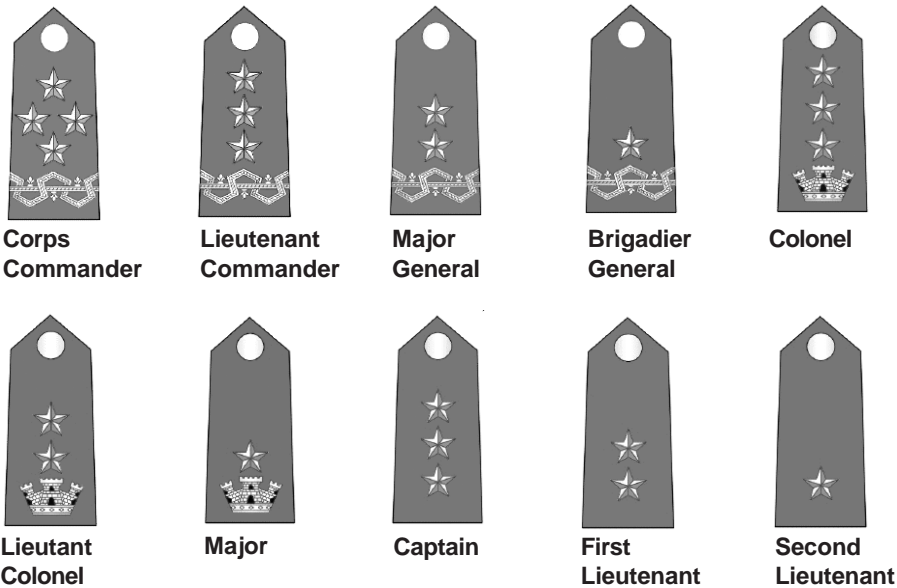
"You salute the Italian officers and the Carabinieri officers the same as you do American officers," said Rando. "Our salute is the same unless we are not wearing our hat and then we snap to attention as a way of returning respect."

Italian uniforms are different than American uniforms, but the rank is openly displayed and recognizable.

"Rank is displayed on shoulder boards of officers and on the upper arm of enlisted soldiers," said Rando.

Italian Soldiers assigned to the Carabinieri, are members of the 4th Italian Army Corps, and help the American Soldiers and their families with security and traffic issues, and should also be saluted.

"The action of saluting would give the carabinieri officers the feeling of satisfaction for the hard work they do and make them feel respected," said Lt. Col. Fortunato Spolaore, SETAF Carabinieri company commander. "It's also a better diplomatic way to work together and improves the relationship between the American Soldiers and the Carabinieri."



## Several factors weigh in when it comes to scoring well on SATs

By Diana Bahr  
USAG Vicenza Public Affairs

For many students (and parents) doing well on the Scholastic Aptitude Test can mean the difference between getting into the 'dream' university, or enrolling in the second or third choice.

Fortunately, for many Department of Defense Dependents School students, the dream college is more of a reality, thanks to a steady increase in SAT scores over the past several years.

In 2006, DoDDS students scored a combination average of 1,529 on the math, critical reading and writing sections, compared to the national average of 1,518, according to statistics from the Department of Defense Education Activity. The only area where DoDDS students didn't fare as well as their counterparts in stateside schools was in math – but only by less than 15 points.

On average, DoDDS students are also more inclined to take the SAT compared to their stateside counterparts – 70 percent of DoDDS students compared to just 48 percent nationwide.

One parent thinks she may know why DoDDS students fare better on the SATs.

"I personally think that preparing a child for college begins as soon as they enter school," said Susan Gafford, a parent of two DoDDS students and a DoDDS staffer. "I feel that DoDDS has higher expectations for our students than most stateside public schools, offers honors and AP [Advanced Placement] classes that any student has the chance to take, and the teachers and administrators really get to know their students better.

"The teachers live in the same community as their students, usually knows the parents and family, and all work together to give each student the best education possible. The

teachers truly care about the success of each and every child and try their hardest to get them [students] to work to their best ability."

Perhaps environment is another factor, according to Gafford.

"I definitely think that attending Vicenza High School has given Megan a better preparation for college," she said. "We have been able to focus on education and not worry [to the same extent] about violence, guns, gangs, drugs, etc. that stateside schools deal with.

"We have small class sizes and, for a school of our size, a good course selection," she continued. "The chance to live and travel in Europe and get to know people of other cultures is an educational experience that can never be replaced with a textbook.

"Many stateside schools are now teaching students to pass a test to graduate," she said. "But our teachers here in Vicenza have always focused on the skills the students need and the information they need to be exposed to. I think Megan has learned to be responsible for her own education – the most important skill she'll need for college."

Taking her educational opportunities seriously was not lost on Gafford's daughter, Megan, a senior at Vicenza High School who is preparing to leave for college this summer.

"I felt prepared for the SAT, but that was because it is a test that covers material all high school students should have learned," said Megan. "I knew that I knew the material.

"The bottom line is, no school or person can prepare you for something that requires knowledge, you have to just take the initiative," she said. "DoDDS prepared me for the SAT as well as any institution could, but for any student, it is not the school that prepares you for the SAT, it is your own motivation."

## DoDDS Customer Satisfaction survey

Department of Defense Education Activity  
Press Release

The Department of Defense Education Activity is administering its biannual Customer Satisfaction Survey through Feb. 28. The CSS provides valuable feedback to DoDEA from its most important customers – students, parents, and teachers – about the quality of education it provides and areas needing improvement.

Separate surveys will be given to teachers, parents, students in grades 4-5, students in grades 6-8, and students in grades 9-12.

The survey is available online at [www.dodea.edu](http://www.dodea.edu), then click on the CSS link.

Parents who do not have access to the Internet should contact their child's school to determine other alternatives – using the

school's computers or receiving a paper copy to be mailed to DoDEA.

Sponsors are asked to complete a survey for each child enrolled in a DoD school in grades pre-kindergarten/Sure Start through 12.

Information derived from the surveys will be used to improve planning efforts at all levels throughout DoDEA.

Schools, districts, and areas will use the survey results to gain insight into the satisfaction levels of sponsors and students, which is one of many measures used for future planning of programs and services offered to DoDEA's students.

The survey results will also be used to monitor the DoDEA Community Strategic Plan (CSP), which contains the strategic direction for DoDEA for the years 2006-2011.

## The Outlook

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## Vicenza Installation Materiel Maintenance Activity work force receives award for the second year



Above: Eliseo Rosa, left, Mirko Guerra and Gianbattista Comiati, right, electronic and visual equipment technicians work on night-vision goggles. In 2006, they repaired about 6,000 pieces of equipment in six months. Rosa and Guerra have been working with IMMA for eight years, while Comiati for four years. Right: Massimo Bergamin, painter at IMMA for the past seven years, prepares an M-915 A3 Truck Tractor for paint. Far right: Alessandro Franchi, heavy duty mechanic, works on a Humvee's engine.



Story and photos by Laura Kreider  
*Outlook Staff*

The Vicenza Installation Materiel Maintenance Activity (IMMA) has been a very busy agency in the past year. For the second year in a row competed at the 2006 USAREUR Army Award for Maintenance Excellence Table of Distribution and Allowances, placing first in the Small category. IMMA won again in this category, which is any unit formed of less than 100 employees.

"This is not the first year we received this award," said Angel Roche-Santiago, who has been chief of IMMA Maintenance Division since 2005. If last year he was very proud of the successful result awarded for the first time

to this agency, this year he stressed how, "he has nothing but the best in this section".

IMMA consists of 42 personnel in Vicenza and four in Camp Darby. Some employees work in the tactical shop where vehicles, trucks and equipment are repaired, and others are tradesmen who perform welding, machine, paint, upholstery and woodworking duties.

"These guys put out an outstanding, impressive number of work orders," added Roche-Santiago. "The IMMA's hallmark is its ability to identify

requirements, establish the procedures and standards, and closely govern the resources expended to obtain high standards. The operating procedures in the activity are indicative of this stringent yet highly responsive resource management."

The management and employees work closely together to improve the internal and external operational procedures that cover a total of 21 commodity areas, according to Roche-Santiago.

"As the garrison and units activate, transform, or deploy, the IMMA institutionalizes 'tried and true' methods and incorporates them into the doctrinally sound document," he said.

During this past year, all IMMA's tasks totaled about 11,000 work orders, of which about 70 percent referred to tactical support jobs.

"Vicenza IMMA served as the base piece of the reconstitution while the organic maintenance assets within the 173rd [Airborne Brigade] were off line. Eighty percent of reset and reconstitution work orders were able to be opened prior to the unit returning from block leave," he said. All the equipment, from deployed vehicles to visual equipment needing inspecting, and all maintenance is performed as quickly as possible to be as responsive as possible to the units' needs.



Top: Luca Gianello, one of the heavy duty mechanics at IMMA, repairs a windshield wiper's motor on a Humvee. Above: Fabio Sottoriva, mechanic at IMMA since 2000 works on a street sweeper, which needs maintenance.

vehicles to visual equipment needing inspecting, and all maintenance is performed as quickly as possible to be as responsive as possible to the units' needs.

"It is a proven fact that the talent and capabilities within the Maintenance Division make them winners of the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence FY06," said Roche-Santiago. The award ceremony takes place in April in Heidelberg, Germany. Department of the Army level winners will be announced later.



Above: Tarcisio Fattori, a machinist with IMMA for 18 years, prepares some 100 pieces for weapon alignment support stands.



*Stories from the front line***Camp Darby Military Policeman's heroic action in Iraq**

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

When you wake up in a hot, dusty tent in Iraq, you know that every second of every minute you breath that you have to be alert not only for your loved ones back home but for your buddy to the right and left of you. On May 12, 2003, when Sgt. Larry Wright, a Military Police Team Leader for the 549th MP Company, woke up - he didn't know exactly how much he would protect and serve that day.

While conducting combat patrols in the downtown Baghdad area on that balmy Monday, Wright's squad came under enemy fire. The three-vehicle squad maneuvered through crowded streets and several marketplaces.

"It was full with weapons and occasional small-arms fire," said Wright in a soft Tennessee accent. "In order to maneuver through, our vehicles had to slow down and we physically had to lift hanging wires."

Wright's vehicle was the last vehicle to

pass when a lone gunman emerged from the market and open fired with a pistol. A bullet pierced the upper right arm of Sgt. Daugherty, Wright's team leader. Pain and fear didn't stop either Soldier as they jumped out of the vehicle and raced after the gunman. When the pain and seriousness of the wound finally brought Daugherty to his knees, Wright threw himself between his wounded team leader and gunman and fired three rounds from his M4 rifle. His shots were accurate and the gunman was injured. But then, they found themselves under sniper fire from rooftops of nearby buildings. Wright hoisted his team leader back up and together they moved back to the vehicle alternating cover fire.

For his heroic action, Wright was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with the Valor Device. Three and a half years later, he received the Combat Action Badge for his leadership and valor while under enemy fire in the streets of



**Spc. (now Sgt) Larry Wright stands guard outside of an Iraqi police station in Baghdad, Iraq in August 2003. Wright is the first MP to wear the Combat Action Badge on Camp Darby. (Photo courtesy of Sgt. Mathew Thorton, 549th Military Police Company)**

Baghdad. Wright is the first MP at Camp Darby who can now wear with pride the Combat Action Badge.

**Emergency rooms**

By Capt. Stephanie Fegan  
Livorno Health Clinic  
Executive Officer

The Italian government has implemented a country-wide fee of 25 euro for code-white ER admissions (non-emergencies like severe cold and flu symptoms, headaches, diarrhea, allergic reactions, etc.). However, this charge doesn't affect emergencies involving life, limb, or eyesight, nor is there a charge for children who need to visit the emergency room.

Currently, hospitals within differing Italian Regions can adjust prices.

The Pisa University Hospital is charging 10 euro, while the Livorno Hospital is at 18.65 euro. Service members and their families who visit the emergency room at Italian hospitals need to ensure they bring extra euros with them. Even if they feel it is an emergency visit, it is best to be prepared in case their condition is down-graded upon arrival.

**Changes to Italian dog laws leaves some barking**

By Staff Sgt. Joyce Costello  
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

American community members who own dogs, need to make sure they are in compliance with Italian dog laws.

Livia Turco, Italian Minister of Health, issued a new ordinance amendment for "people to remaining safe from all dogs' aggressiveness."

The original Aggressive Dog Ordinance passed by Italy Dec. 2, 2005, named 17 breeds considered dangerous and made it illegal for anyone under 18, or with a criminal record, to own one of the named breeds.

Additionally, it forbids these breeds from having their ears, tail and vocal chords docked or removed.

It is also mandatory for the dog to wear collar and/or a muzzle in open space and both in public place and cars, but it is against the law to use electrical collar.

And, not only is it mandatory to have insurance to cover any

damage your dog may cause to another person, but it is forbidden to train the dogs in a manner that increases their aggressiveness.

These rules, which previously only applied to the 17 dangerous breeds now apply to all dogs.

If you are considering buying a dog, you need to know the following:

At three months of age, the dog must be registered with the canine registry office (*anagrafe canina*). Bring along documents showing there the dog's identification tattoo or microchip is located. Italian law states that the dog must be tattooed on its body as well as, its ear by a registered veterinarian. The new owner of a dog (by purchase or adoption) has 15 days to register

with the canine registry office.

Currently, cats do not need to have an identification chip, tattoo or be registered, but it is encouraged.

Call the Camp Darby Veterinarian Clinic at 633-8288 for details.



Photo courtesy of USAG Vicenza Public Affairs Office.

*No "basta" to more pasta*

A child needs no encouragement to wipe her plate clean. The little girl, her mother, and 12 other Camp Darby community members, gathered in the warm, welcoming Army Community Service kitchen to watch instructor Ann Hinckley teach them the secret to making a delectable, but fast and easy Spaghetti Carbonara. Each month, Camp Darby ACS has a free cooking class which highlights a different dish or cooking technique. The next class will focus on making Italian sweets for your sweetie just in time for Valentines Day. The class will learn how to make *crostata* and *biscotti di prato* Feb 13 at 1 p.m. (Photo by Elena Baladelli, Livorno Photo Lab).



# Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

## Exhibitions

**Padova** - The 6th Auto tuning show takes place Jan. 26, 27 and 28 in the city's exhibition grounds.

Last year 22,000 visitors enjoyed the 170 cars on show and the 70 companies present with accessories for the car and the driver.

Outside the exhibition grounds there will be go-kart races and stunt car exhibitions.

Open every day 9 a.m.-8 p.m., the entrance fee is 12 euro.

**Verona** - *Viva la Casa*, an exhibition of furnishing, home accessories and wedding articles; including sections of contemporary furniture and design takes place at the exhibition grounds Jan. 26, 27 and 28.

Open Jan. 26 from 4-10 p.m., the entrance fee is 4 euro.

Jan. 27-28 open from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., entrance fee is 7 euro, children under 12 years of age enter free.

The Verona exhibition grounds are located near the Verona south autostrada exit.

## de Chirico in Padova

More than 100 works of art by Giorgio de Chirico can be seen in Palazzo Zabarella in Padova.

Many of the works are on loan from the Tate museum in London, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and also from art museums in Berlin, Rome and Paris.

The exhibition is open every day from 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. The ticket office closes at 6:30 p.m.

Entrance fees: adults pay 10 euro, children 6-18 years of age pay 5 euro. The exhibition ends May 27.

## Carnival time

Carnival in Italy takes place in February and dates are not the same for every city; as the cities make final plans for their celebration we will publicize them large or small though they be:

**Malo:** Located 17 km from

Vicenza, carnival parades are Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 20 there is an entrance fee.

**Venice:** Dates are Feb. 9-20, the official opening is Feb. 11 in St. Mark's Square with the 'Flight of the Angel,' at noon.

## Venice public transport

For a real sense of the city of Venice, before *Carnevale* which is Feb. 18-28, wandering through the tiny side streets, over hump-backed bridges and into pocket-sized piazzas is a must for visitors.

But if time is of the essence, visitors should consider using the extensive network of water buses, *vaporetti*, operated by Venice's transportation company, ACTV.

Details are found on the Web site: [www.actv.it](http://www.actv.it), which is also in English.

## Visit an island

One of the most interesting islands in the lagoon is Murano, which is made up of five islets and even boasts its own Grand Canal.

Famous all over the world for its hand-blown crystal, known as 'murrina,' the island offers many workshops where you can purchase unique pieces.

A word of warning, hand-blown glass does not come cheap so you should be suspicious of 'bargains.'

Perfection comes in the beauty of the work and the skill it involves, not in the flawlessness of the piece.

Hand-blown glasses will always have imperceptible differences and should be extremely thin.

There should also be no bubbles in hand-blown glass pieces, so examine your purchase carefully before handing over your money.

There is also a glass museum on the island, open November-March, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; April-October, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

The entrance fee is 5.50 euro.

## Italian wine labels

Whether you're entertaining or just preparing a special dinner for friends, you want all the food and trimmings to be perfect.

Often, the finishing touch are beverages and, here in Italy, it is common to have a bottle of wine on the table.

It can also be a topic of conversation at the table and facts you give out could make your guests think that you are a connoisseur.

The labeling of most Italian wines is regulated by the Italian government. The following explains the significance of the main terms found on most Italian wine labels:

**DOC: *Demoninazione di Origine Controllata*** - This specifies that the wine comes from a specific vineyard, locality or region and is produced using traditional methods. These wines are usually of very good quality.

**DOCG: *Demoninazione di Origine Controllata Garantita*** - This label certifies that the wine has been produced under strict government regulations and indicates its area of origin.

The extra 'G' at the end of this labeling term is intended to signify a wine of guaranteed high quality. These wines are usually of the best quality and command premium prices.

**Classico** - The term Classico, followed by the name of the locality where the wine was produced, specifies that the wine was produced from grapes grown in the oldest vineyard area in that locality.

**Riserva** - The term Riserva after the name of the wine certifies that the wine has been aged for at least three years before bottling.

**Vino da Tavola** - *Vino da tavola* refers to table wine. Note, however, that some very good quality wines, labeled only as table wines, are not subject to any special labeling requirement.

# Now Showing

## Caserma Ederle Theater

Jan. 23	CLOSED	
Jan. 24	Stranger than Fiction (PG13)	7 p.m.
Jan. 25	Let's Go to Prison (R)	7 p.m.
Jan. 26	Freedom Writers (PG13)	7 p.m.
	De'Ja Vu (PG13)	10 p.m.
Jan. 27	Freedom Writers (PG13)	4 p.m.
	Casino Royale (PG13)	7 p.m.
Jan. 28	Flushed Away (PG)	4 p.m.
	Deck the Halls (PG)	7 p.m.
Jan. 29	CLOSED	
Jan. 30	CLOSED	

## Camp Darby Theater

Jan. 25	We Are Marshall (PG)	6 p.m.
Jan. 26	Eragon (PG)	6 p.m.
Jan. 27	Casino Royale (PG13)	6 p.m.
Jan. 28	Charlotte's Web (G)	2 p.m.

## Movie Synopsis

**CASINO ROYALE** - *Daniel Craig, Judi Dench*. James Bond's first 007 mission takes him to Madagascar, where he is to spy on a terrorist Mollaka. Not everything goes as planned and Bond decides to investigate, independently of the MI6 agency, in order to track down the rest of the terrorist cell. Following a lead to the Bahamas, he encounters Dimitrios and his girlfriend, Solange. He learns that Dimitrios is involved with Le Chiffre, banker to the world's terrorist organizations. The marathon game proceeds with dirty tricks and violence, raising the stakes beyond blood money and reaching a terrifying climax.

**FREEDOM WRITERS** - *Hilary Swank, Imelda Staunton*. A dedicated California teacher finds a way to unify her disadvantaged, racially divided students, and to improve their grasp of academics, partly by having them keep journals about their violent, troubled lives.

**ERAGON** - *Edward Speleers, Jeremy Irons*. A boy named Eragon finds a polished blue stone in the forest. At first, he thinks it's a lucky discovery, something that will bring meat to his poor family for the winter. Instead, it brings a dragon hatchling, and Eragon is soon thrust into a world of magic and power through which he and the dragon must navigate.

**LETS GO TO PRISON** - *Dax Shepard, Will Arnett*. Felon John Lyshitski has figured out the best way to get revenge on the now-dead judge who sent him to jail: watch the official's obnoxious son, Nelson Biederman IV, survive the clink. John strikes gold when Nelson is wrongly convicted of a crime and sent to the pen he used to call home. He gleefully gets sent back to become Nelson's cellmate and to ensure that his new buddy gets the "full treatment."

**WE ARE MARSHALL** - *Matthew McConaughey, Matthew Fox*. A true story. One night in 1970, while traveling back to Huntington after a game in North Carolina, 75 members of Marshall's football team and coaching staff were killed in a plane crash. As those left behind struggle to cope with the devastating loss of their loved ones, the grieving families found hope and strength in the leadership of a young coach who was determined to rebuild Marshall's football program and in the process helped to heal a community.

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

## 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](http://www.vicenzamwr.com/marketplace).

Every Tuesday at noon, *The Outlook* editor goes to the MWR Web site and copies the ads, which appear in *The Outlook* one week later. **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*.

Because *The Outlook* has limited amount of space available, editing of the classified ad may take place.

**The Outlook does not take classifieds; sellers must place ads on [www.vicenzamwr.com](http://www.vicenzamwr.com).**

For more information or contact information on an item you see listed here, visit the MWR Web site: [www.vicenzamwr.com/marketplace](http://www.vicenzamwr.com/marketplace).

Transformers: Two-300w transformers, and 1-75w. \$50 for all. 1993 Golf gti: Like new, loaded. \$2,500.

Snow boarder armor: By Triple 8, Never worn.

1990 Range Rover: \$2,800.

'91 Fiat Tipo: \$150. Runs well.

HP/Compaq Presario: Perfect working condition. \$600.

Ceiling fans: 220v, like new. \$20 each or \$35 for both.

Nokia Phone: Great condition. \$25, OBO.

Wanted: Back issues of decorating magazines

Black dress boots: Naturalizer boots, size 11, \$50.

Italian dress boots: Black, size 41, \$50.

1996 Mercedes S420: PCSing. \$10,000, OBO.

1997 Dodge Grand Caravan SE: Loaded. \$3,400.

50 gallon aquarium w/stand: \$100; w/ delivery \$125; w/ delivery and set-up \$150.

Entertainment center: Cherry finish, Sauder. \$200, OBO.

Rims and racing tires: Alessio 17" Rims and Dunlop racing tires, sold together. 615 Euros, or \$795.

CTC textbook: Introduction to American Policing. \$75.

88 Key electric Piano: Casio Privia PX-110 electric piano, 110V only. \$450.

92 Honda Prelude: 5sp, PCSing. Transformers: 5- 300w, \$15 ea.; 5-300w \$10 ea.; 3-75w \$5 ea.

Renault Clio 94: Very reliable;

\$650, OBO.

Toys: Design your own Bratz heads still in box \$20.

Nintendo Gamecube: With three games and two controllers.

Sony Playstation 2: One controller and four games.

Small breed puppy wanted: Should be good with children, prefer a female.

Microwave, coffeemaker, blender, mixer: All 220v, all clean and in good condition, all for just \$50.

PCSing: Everything must go!!

Vehicle needed: I am not DOD, so I need a car that can be registered in Italy.

Camper Van wanted: Want a reasonably priced Camper Van. VW or other.

Wanted: Small family car 4 door, will pay \$3,000 - \$5,000.

89' Renault 5: Reliable used car, \$600, OBO.

2004 Custom Harley Softtail: Loaded, asking Blue Book value.

Apartment in Greece: Timeshare on Crete for first full week of July. 200 Euro.

Worldspace Satellite Radio: Service is \$10 per month and paid through September. \$100.

Small dog wanted: Male or female.





Wi-Fi comes to post

## Surf the Web while you dine, or bowl a few frames at the same time

Left: A Soldier with AFN eats a bagle while taking advantage of the Wi-Fi Internet system in Café Centrale. Café Centrale opened Jan. 15 inside the Central Processing Facility, taking over for Joe Dugans' restaurant. Clients can now enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner seven days a week. The café is open fro 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and offers American-style breakfast (hashbrowns, sausage, eggs, omelets, etc.) along with Italian specialities such as lasagna and other pasta dishes. Meals may be ordered to go for those on the run. Café Centrale accepts dollars, euro and credit cards.

Right: A Soldier with 1st Battalion, 503d Infantry (Airborne), checks out some Web sites on a computer, while buddy, Jonathan Irving, also with 1-503d, bowls a few frames at the Ederle Lanes Thursday. The Soldiers were using the Wi-Fi system recently installed in the Ederle Lanes. The bowling alley also has a room where Soldiers can bring in their computes and sit down to surf the Internet. (Photos by Diana Bahr, USAG Vicenza Public Affairs)



A Soldier from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team, Brigade S-3, receives various prizes from a USAG Vicenza Sports specialist after placing third in the 2006-07 College Bowls Games Contest coordinated by the USAG Vicenza Sports & Fitness from Dec. 11-20.

## Luck or skill? Community members win big in College Bowls game contest

Story and photo by Laura Kreider  
Outlook Staff

Three Vicenza community members walked away with terrific prizes for correctly choosing the winners of this year's college bowl contests, thanks to MWR's 2006-07 College Bowl Games contest.

"Almost 50 individuals participated in the contest, with the majority being active duty personnel, followed by U.S. Civilians and family members," said Ricky Jackson, a sports specialist with USAG Vicenza's Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

The contest was organized to provide a diverse type of activity for the community to participate in, according to Jackson.

"The participants also had a chance to test their ability and luck by making the correct picks," he added.

"I am very happy that I had an opportunity to participate in this contest. I really didn't expect to win anything," said Harkins. "I think there were 25 bowl games, and it looked like things were going pretty well for me up until the last game when Ohio State managed to barely lose the National

Championship and that of course cost me second place," said Harkins. "The most difficult part was picking the team that you thought was going to win, versus the team that you want to win. That was probably the hardest part, but at the same time it was a lot of fun, and I am looking forward to March Madness, which starts March 16."

"I thank all the participants because their enthusiasm and motivation certainly contributed to the success of this contest," said Jackson. "We look forward to the future, to have the community's participation in our Sports and Fitness programs, activities and events."

He also thanked all the organizations that supported the contest to include MWR Marketing, Soldiers' Theatre, ITR, Arts & Crafts, post library, Outdoor Recreation, Auto Craft and Sports & Fitness.

The winners were: 1st pPlace, Chris Johnson, USAG Vicenza, who won one-hour massage, a car wash, an ITR trip and an MWR Bag with various prizes; 2nd place went to Elisabeth Balistreri, who won an Aerobic 10-point pass, a Soldier's Theatre show ticket, and an MWR Bag with various prizes and; Harkins, (HHC, 173d Airborne Brigade, Brigade S-3), who received an Arts & Craft framing class, a ski trip and an MWR bag with various prizes.