



# The Outlook

Jan. 30, 2007

U.S. Army Garrisons Vicenza & Livorno

www.USAG.Vicenza.Army.Mil

Vol. 40 Issue 4

## 173d ABCT trains up on new command post communication system

Story and photo by Sgt. Brandon Aird  
173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team  
Public Affairs

On today's battlefield new technology plays a critical role in giving Army commanders an edge. The difference between success and failure often is influenced by sophisticated communication networks and battlefield intelligence which enhances the commander's capability to make crucial decisions.

To ensure the success of future missions, the 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team Tactical Operating Center is receiving the latest in TOC network internal communications equipment.

Selected Soldiers from the brigade's Operations, Communications, and Personnel sections participated in Command Post Communication System (CPCS) training in Grafenwoehr, Germany Jan. 17-29.

The new system will standardize battlefield capabilities in TOCs across the Army.

"Communication is vital to warfare," said Spc. Torey Jackson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 173d ABCT. "This new system will help commanders have a more reliable communication system that offers more options than previous systems."

The TOC network system provides a modular, expandable approach to voice and data communication.

The TOCNET system consists of six different types of line replacement units, micro central switching unit (provides central processing and interface functions), crew access unit (main interface unit), desktop and enhanced desktop (interface unit), onboard crew access unit (vehicle interface unit) and TOCNET transit case.

Multiple nodes (up to 64) can be

networked together to form a larger system with up to 1024 assets (simultaneous communication assets/channels, i.e., computer terminal or telephones).

Units deploying to hostile areas are being fielded the system first.

One of the benefits of the CPCS is that it enables a Soldier to be able to walk into any TOC, regardless of the unit or environment, and be familiar with its capabilities and operation, according to Jackson.

At the moment, the CPCS is C-130 deployable, but soon, it will be possible to air drop the equipment.

"It will provide a proficient tactical network for the combat team to monitor the battlefield in a real time scenario," said Staff Sgt. Daryl Stewart, NCOIC of automations for the 173d ABCT.

The 173d ABCT will be fielded two CPCSs before deploying to Iraq later this year, said Sgt. Mark Lugo, HHC, 173d ABCT.

### Upcoming African American History month events

Come out Friday at noon to the post exchange food court and help kick off African American History month with a cake-cutting and remarks by Capt. Gerald Vaughn, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, USAG Vicenza.

The big event for African American History month is scheduled for Feb. 22 at 1 p.m. in the Ederle Theater.

Command Sgt. Maj. James Diggs, European Regional Medical Command will be the guest speaker and the Vicenza Gospel Choir will perform.

For details on these events, contact Master Sgt. Tamika Anderson, SETAF Equal Opportunity Advisor at 634-7093.



Sgt. Melinda Delli Gatti (left) and Pfc. Sara Spencer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team, practice using a crew access unit Jan. 20 during a class on the Command Post Communication System in Grafenwoehr, Germany. (Photo by Sgt. Brandon Aird, 173d ABCT Public Affairs)

### NSPS News

To register for a training class, go to the Civilian Human Resource Training Application System Web site at [www.atrrs.army.mil/channels/chrtas](http://www.atrrs.army.mil/channels/chrtas).

#### Employee Training

Employee training is a one-day class and takes place in Vicenza Feb. 6, 7, 12 and 15 in the Hall of Heroes.

In Livorno, employee training takes place Feb. 26-28 in the Sgt. Maj. Shield Conference room.

#### Supervisor Training

Supervisor training is a two-day class and takes place in Vicenza Feb. 20-21, 27-28 and March 1-2.

In Livorno, supervisor training takes place March 1-2 in the Sgt. Maj. Shield Conference room.

#### NSPS Town Hall meetings

USAREUR will be holding NSPS Town Hall meetings in Vicenza for all GS employees and their supervisors Feb. 13 at 10 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. in the Ederle Theater.

The NSPS Town Hall meeting for Livorno will be Feb. 14 at 1-3 p.m. in the Darby Theater.

## National Security Personnel System employee training begins in Vicenza

Vicenza Civilian Personnel  
Advisory Center

Special to the Outlook

*Editor's note: The first NSPS employee training classes for the Vicenza community were held Tuesday through Thursday in the Hall of Heroes. Below is information about what the employees can expect from the class.*

**Q: What does the training class encompass?**

A: The overall training consists of an overview of the major changes in each of the Human Resources functional areas. Then we cover in-depth training in the areas of: the procedural process for conversion to NSPS; classification under NSPS; Staffing and Recruiting changes under NSPS; compensation/pay setting under NSPS; and performance management under NSPS.

**Q: Where else is this information available?**

A: Much of the information covered in the training is available in various forms on the Department of Defense and Department of the Army NSPS Web sites. Most of the basic information is available in a myriad of brochures and booklets that have been published by both DoD and DA.

**Q: What is the most common concern employees express about the NSPS transition?**

A: So far, the biggest concerns of the employees who have attended these first sessions are the affect on their current pay at time of conversion, the impact on overseas unique benefits and allowances (LQA, post allowance), and the new performance management system, since it will have a major impact on future pay raises.

**Q: Why are we attending the training? If we don't have a choice about moving to NSPS,**

**why can't we just get a brochure and read about the program?**

A: The training goes a little deeper than the technical information available online and offers more comparisons to current familiar practices and policies to better focus on the real differences. Also, the training offers the opportunity to request clarification, apply the NSPS to real situations, and to ask personal questions regarding how NSPS might affect individual situations.

**Q: What is the most important information you hope employees will take away from the training?**

A: The most important information that employees can take away from the training is that they will suffer no loss of pay under NSPS, and that NSPS gives them the potential to be better recognized for their contributions to the mission than the current GS system; that the pay banding and pay for performance system work, and that some Federal agencies

have been under NSPS-like systems for more than 20 years and have very successful experiences. Hopefully, when they complete the training, the level of skepticism will be reduced. It is important for employees to get smart concerning NSPS so that they can take advantage of some of the new flexibilities the system offers and better manage their Federal career.

**Q: If employees still have concerns, where can they turn for help?**

A: Both DoD and DA have Web sites totally devoted to NSPS issues and are regularly updated. Also, on both the USAG Vicenza and Lion Net Web sites, viewers will find the NSPS logo. Click on the logo and then fill out the form with a specific issue and e-mail it to the CPAC, or click on the 'NSPS Home Page' link for more information. Finally, employees can call or e-mail Dave Hamilton, director, Vicenza CPAC, at 634-7547 or to [david.e.hamilton@us.army.mil](mailto:david.e.hamilton@us.army.mil).

# Tighten up post

Command Sgt. Maj. Keith Filipp  
USAG Vicenza Command Sergeant Major  
Special to the Outlook

This is my fifth column about how we can tighten up post and I send my thanks for doing your part in making the Vicenza military community image standout.

We've come a long way, but there will always be something that we can be doing better or need to be reminded of. Caserma Ederle's image has increased immensely and now we must maintain it and focus a little more on safety. With everyone back from winter vacation please be more cautious with your driving speed on post.

I was recently notified by the Vicenza School office to talk to the community about traffic on Olson Avenue in front of the schools.

Apparently, people are unaware or disregarding the speed limit of 10km per hour.

Yes, that is extremely slow (6 miles per hour) BUT, this is in front of the school where our smallest and most vulnerable community members are active.

Several times a day, elementary school children have to cross Olson Avenue on their way to and from other classrooms and the playing field.

As community members, it is our responsibility to watch out for our youngest members and their teachers as they cross the street.

The last thing anyone wants is to have a child in our community be struck by a car because the driver failed to honor the speed limit. Let's slow down, be safe and obey the speed limits.

Now that the Caserma Ederle is looking good it is time to expand our attention to our housing area. The recent warm weather trend has some old summer habits coming back to haunt us.

Please take a look at your quarters and make those small improvements to your yard while you have the chance. A little trimming, mowing and picking up makes an incredible difference during this season of the year.

Please review the USAG Vicenza Garrison Policy letters that apply to Villaggio, especially with parking of motorcycles and storage barns for motorcycles.

Parking of motorcycles on sidewalks is prohibited and presents a safety issue in the event of an emergency. Please park your motorcycle in designated spaces or behind your quarters on the patio hard stand.

The USAG Vicenza Garrison Policy letters can be viewed on the USAG Vicenza Web site home page at [www.usag.vicenza.army.mil](http://www.usag.vicenza.army.mil).



Command Sgt. Maj.  
Keith Filipp



The speed limit during school hours along Olson Avenue in front of the Vicenza Schools is 10 kilometers per hour - which is about 6 miles per hour. (Photo by Diana Bahr, USAG Vicenza Public Affairs)

## Community Action Council

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

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

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

Childcare is offered during the CAC at \$4 per hour, per child, for children ages 6 weeks old through kindergarten from 8:45-11:15 a.m. Preregistration is required.

Children will be cared for in the Child Development Center, building 395. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services Central Registration. Call 634-7219 or stop by their location in the Davis Family Readiness Center.

The next CAC will be **Thursday, March 1** beginning at 10 a.m. in Club Veneto.

**Issue:** There are many families who have installed fences in the back yard of their Villaggio residence. There are many fences

which are not installed properly (e.g. cracks, inappropriate heights, etc). Animals are not secured within the fenced areas as they are able to jump over fences as well as slip through cracks. This poses a danger to Villaggio residents.

**Response from Directorate of Public Works:** Thank you for bringing this to our attention. A comprehensive survey of all Villaggio fences was conducted by the Housing Office and a formal report of the results sent through the DPW to USAG Vicenza Headquarters by the end of November 2006.

Occupants of units whose fences did not meet acceptable standards were provided a written notice of the specific discrepancies and given 30 days to take corrective action or have the fence removed.

Improper fencing is not only a neighborhood eye sore, but can also pose a serious safety hazard to children and pets in particular.

Before a Villaggio sponsor can install a privately owned fence in Villaggio, a formal written request must be processed through the Housing Office, to include a diagram of the proposed fence and a description of fence materials to be used. Prior to "final" approval,

**The next CAC will be  
Thursday, March 1 at  
10 a.m. in Club Veneto.**

## Inclement weather procedures

U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza  
Community Information

In the event of inclement weather, upon the approval of Col. Virgil S.L. Williams, USAG Vicenza commander, AFN Vicenza will broadcast no later than 6 a.m. over AFN radio 106FM, and the Command Information Channel, AFN receiver channel 12, for a two-hour delay or closure information for schools and the installation.

Personnel without access to AFN radio or television can contact the Southern European Operations Center (SEOC) at 0444-71-7520/7720 off post, or 634-7520/7720 from DSN lines, for delay or closure information.

All installation units and agencies will be responsible for activating their internal phone rosters to contact and inform their Soldiers and civilian employees.

The DODDS school management will inform their employees and transportation assets.

In the event of early school closure, the DODDS Student Transportation office will inform the USAG Vicenza commander, who will relay the information to the SEOC.

The SEOC will then contact all units and agencies on the installation and inform them of the early closure.

In the event of inclement weather,

parents are advised to allow their children to be transported home through normal means (contracted bus).

If parents must pick up their children, please coordinate with the school office to ensure proper accountability for all students.

In the event a student cannot be dropped off at home (no parent or guardian available) student(s) will be returned to the school bus office and the school bus office will contact the parents or guardians.

Parents can get information on student locations by contacting the School Transportation office at 0444-71-8132 or the SEOC at 0444-71-7520/7720.



Winter is here and Caserma Ederle has an inclement weather plan in place for work and school. (Outlook file photo)

## Cost-of-living-allowance survey available

Attention Soldiers!

Here's your opportunity to help set the cost of living allowance for Italy.

The Living Pattern Survey for servicemembers living in Italy is available online at: <https://www.perdiem.osd.mil/oscola/lps/italy/>

The survey, which affects the cost-of-living-allowance paid to service members living overseas, helps identify where and how service members buy goods and service.

Over the next two months, Soldiers and family members on Caserma Ederle and

Camp Darby can participate in three surveys that go toward calculating the COLA.

The Living Pattern Survey will be followed by a Retail Price Survey in February.

The RPS allows volunteer shoppers to price products and services on the economy based on the results of the LPS.

Service members will then be asked to complete a Utility Survey. Those who receive an overseas housing allowance will be asked to detail much they spent on rent, utilities, and other home allowances.

Housing will conduct a site visit, within 30-days, to ensure that standards are enforced.

UPDATE: Dec. 15: 1. As a follow up on this issue a 100 percent inspection was performed.

2. A total of 109 discrepancies were identified ranging from minor infractions such as a bent support pole or broken tie wire to fences that utilized non-authorized materials and were in an extremely bad state of repair.

3. Discrepancy notifications initially allowed 30 calendar days from the date of inspection to perform necessary repairs and/or modifications or remove the fence. Occupants were further instructed to contact the Housing Division for re-inspection of the fence once modifications had been performed.

4. Because of the fact that approximately 40 occupants called requesting an inspector on-site to explain in person the deficiencies and required corrective actions, in conjunction with the volume of follow on inspections that had to be scheduled and performed, occupants were given an extension of until Jan. 15 to correct deficiencies.

After that date, Housing Division would initiate a re-inspection of all Villaggio fences that have not been modified and approved to evaluate for removal or further action with the occupants.

5. Of the initial 109 fence discrepancies 21 have been modified and approved and 4 have been removed by the occupants.

6. The Housing Division will continue to track progress and provide updated status.

**Issue:** I would like to know if AAFES

could coordinate with DoDDS and establish a movie plan for the holidays, spring break, etc. Family movies and matinees are needed during this time.

**Response from AAFES:** Beginning mid-February AAFES will change the Saturday movie schedule to reflect the 1 p.m. start time on Saturdays.

This change will affect the 4 p.m. family movie and will serve as a matinee-type schedule playing only family movies during this time frame.

As discussed and suggested during previous CAC meetings, AAFES will also begin a spring schedule that will encourage families to attend matinee movies during spring break.

A request to Theater Express has been submitted to order multiple movies during this time frame so AAFES may show movies during the afternoon hours.

The plan for family friendly movies – movies during the time frame expressed above – will be limited to "family-friendly movies".

A request has been submitted to Theater REEL Time to order children's movies so that we can meet the multiple play requests.

Currently when family-type movies are scheduled some are first run movies and follow a strict schedule.

However, with the addition of Disney Classics that we can keep on hand, we will be able to meet this request.

We are looking forward to this change and will put a marketing package together for both the Saturday change and the change during the spring and summer breaks.

# Have no fear, Vicenza Tax Center is here

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 2006 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.

## 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.

Individuals with complicated tax issues may drop off their tax documents any time the Legal Assistance Office is open, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - noon and 1-5 p.m. Complicated returns will be prepared in the order received, and will normally be completed within five business days.

For a list of documents to bring, call or stop by the Vicenza Tax Center, located in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate office, 6th

Avenue, Caserma Ederle. Our telephone number is 634-7041, or 0444-71-7041 from off post.

## 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.militaryone.com](http://www.militaryone.com).

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

## Important Tax information

- ◆ 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.**



Col. Virgil S.L. Williams, USAG Vicenza commander, cuts a ribbon made of photocopies of euro and dollar bills, with the help of Mark Christensen, chief, legal services division, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, to officially open the Vicenza Tax Center Jan. 22. The Tax Center is credited with filing more than 2,000 tax returns for free for Caserma Ederle community members during the 2006 tax season.

◆ 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.

## Fitness center gym undergoes updates

### 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.

Through Friday: 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.



Aspecial duty Soldier who has been trained on tax return procedures, helps a Caserma Ederle community member file his 2006 Federal Tax Return at the Vicenza Tax Center. (Photos by Diana Bahr, USAG Vicenza Public Affairs)

## The Outlook

Jan. 30, 2007 Vol. 40, Issue 4

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*The Outlook* is an unofficial publication authorized and provided by AR 360-1.

All editorial content of *The Outlook* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza Public Affairs Office in building 3 on Caserma Ederle in Vicenza, Italy. Telephone

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*The Outlook* is published weekly by the USAG Vicenza PAO, Unit 31401, Box 10, APO AE 09630. It is printed by Centro Stampa Editoriale SRL, Grisignano (VI) 0444-414-303.

Editorial publication is an authorized section for members of the U.S. Army overseas. Contents of *The Outlook* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, Installation Management Command-Europe, U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza or the U.S. Army Southern European Task Force.

**Submissions:** Send all submission for publication to [editor@eur.army.mil](mailto:editor@eur.army.mil). Submissions should be made via e-mail and must be received by Wednesday at noon for the following week's publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for style, brevity and clarity. Circulation is 2,500.



# Vicenza High School hosts Wrestling Jamboree

Story and photos by Laura Kreider  
Outlook Staff

The Vicenza High School Wrestling Team hosted their only home tournament this year Jan. 20, in the fitness center gym.

The Cougars took second place competing against Naples, Aviano and Sigonella.

"We beat Aviano, but we can't beat Naples because they have twice as many wrestlers as we do," explained VHS coach George Hanby, after the successful day. "However, we are doing a pretty good job,"

"Four of our wrestlers took first place. We have three Kyles on the team and they all took first place. At 112 lbs, Kyle Hinton; at 140 lbs, his brother Shane Hinton; at 152 lbs, Kyle Stammer, and at 160 lbs Kyle Kaus," he continued.

Vicenza took also two second place finishes at 119 lbs, Shaun Mahadeo and at 189 lbs, Chris Bell, and two third place finishers, one at 125 lbs with Mark Bowman, and the other at 130 lbs with Tyler Perry.

"It has been hard for us to beat Aviano, because they have always had more wrestlers than we have," said Hanby. "But, this is the first year that the Vicenza team can count on 15 guys at the most, wrestling from high school."

About six wrestlers arrived from Sigonella, 26 from Naples, and 12 from Aviano for this event.

The Cougar wrestling team, a group of 12 who competed in the jamboree were:

Kyle Hinton - 112 lbs; Taylor Touzinsky - 112 lbs; Shaun Mahadeo - 119 lbs; Marc Bowman - 125 lbs; Tyler Perry - 130 lbs; Shane Hinton-team captain - 140 lbs; Jonathan Bowman - 145 lbs; Kyle Stammer-team co-captain - 152 lbs; Joe Guthrie - 152 lbs; Kyle Kaus - 160 lbs; Nick Bowman - 171 lbs; Chris Bell - 189 lbs. According to Hanby, during the event also a couple of exhibition matches with middle school wrestlers took place.

Vicenza Middle schoolers who were allowed to compete in the exhibition were: Adam Coombs, Dustin Gryder, Alex Miller, Sawyer Settlemire, Mark Ross, and Tim Loney.

The next jamboree takes place in Rome Feb. 3, while the Sectional Qualifying Tournament for Europeans will take place in Aviano Feb. 10.

Only the top two wrestlers in each weight bracket will compete at the Europeans, which will take place in Wiesbaden, Germany, the following weekend on Feb. 16.

"They [VHS wrestlers] have learned all the moves they need, so right now they are just working on conditioning and drilling the moves they have."

The team has been wrestling every day since November and right now they are working harder to get ready for the finals.

Some wrestlers are not new at this experience.

"This is my second year as a captain and I was a co-captain the year before," Hinton explained after one of his daily practices.

"As a captain there is a lot more pressure, and sometimes you have really bad days. The hardest part probably is motivating them, [team's wrestlers] keeping them on track.

"We have another meeting in Rome before we have the sectionals in Aviano, where the top two wrestlers from each weight class will go on to Wiesbaden for the European Championship," said Hinton. "I have been there last year and the year before. I placed fourth last year, but this year I think I have a good chance of a first place win."



Above: Vicenza High School wrestler, Kyle Stammer, left, competes against Ryan Fitzgerald of the Naples team in the 152 lb weight class. Top: VHS Team Captain, right, takes on Nick Hill (Naples) during the Jamboree.



Left: Bob Unger, from Naples, directs the match between Mark Bowman from the Vicenza High School team and Pablo Martinez from Aviano (red) in the 125 lb weight class. Almost 60 wrestlers participated in the Vicenza Jamboree. The Sectional Qualifying Tournament for the Europeans takes place in Aviano Feb. 10.



Left: Vicenza High School wrestler Shaun Mahadeo (black and gold) goes for the pin against Sigonella wrestler Todd Bove in the 119 lb weight class. Above: VHS wrestlers cheer on their teammates during the Jan. 20 event.



Above: Vicenza High School wrestler, Kyle Kaus, right, and Matt Olson from Naples begin their match under the eye of Michael Trexler, who has been wrestling and officiating since 1978. Trexler comes from Camp Darby.

# Generation Y wiz- kids wire out Camp Darby Community Club

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

Walk down any military barracks in the evening and you'll hear the hoops and hollers of competitive hard-core gamers who may appear to be socially inept geeks. But, their superior technical computer knowledge can lock up your computer work system faster than you can say "You've got mail."

Stereotypes aside, hard-core and casual gamers alike will soon be able to enjoy the ultimate gaming experience at the Darby Community Club.

Volunteers, Sgt. Ryan Haraschack, AFN Livorno, and Airman 1st Class Jason Woody, 712th MUNS, have been working long hours laying cables and setting up Xbox 360 equipment for interactive gaming.

Woody, who is a certified Microsoft systems administrator, used to do local networking in Dayton, Tenn. before he joined the Air Force, and was glad that he could make use of his experience in the civilian world to help out in his military world.

"This is cool. Now instead of running cables from room-to-room in the barracks when we want to play against each other, we'll be able to come to the DCC instead," said Woody as he double checked his measurements of the cable ports.

"This gets us out of the barracks and the Xbox 360 delivers the power and performance of a high-end gaming PC, with an

impressive 5.1 digital audio, graphic resolution up to 1080i and up to four wireless controllers," added Haraschack who swears he's not a hard-core gamer. "More importantly, because we're setting this up as an Intranet, it's self-contained and all internal, so we don't have to worry about outside sources trying to access it."

"The Xbox 360, the Madden and Halo 2 games are all great ways for folks to engage in playing team-oriented games and tournaments," said Mike Monti, Darby Club manager, a self-proclaimed casual gamer with a fondness for NFL games. "I brought competitive gaming into the club system when I was stationed at Thule Air Base, Greenland. I saw the success there and knew, after listening to the young Soldiers and airmen here, it would be a great thing to bring to Camp Darby."

Once Haraschack and Woody complete the system installation and test it out, Camp Darby gamers can go to the Club to compete against each other. There will be enough consoles for 10 gamers to play at any given time. However, slots are available on a first come, first served basis. The club will have Madden and Halo 2 on hand, but gamers can bring their own games if they want.

Monti plans on having a Madden tournament using the new equipment mid to late February. There is a Madden tournament sponsored by the George V Lottier Lodge 130 on Feb. 3 as part of Black History Month, but that tournament will be played using playstations.



Sgt. Ryan Haraschack wires cable through a port with the assistance of Airman 1st Class Jason Woody. They are installing the new Xbox 360 system at the DCC.

## Camp Darby Briefs

### Darby BOSS

**Valentine Roses Surprise** that special someone in your life with a dozen roses delivered to you sweetheart any where on Camp Darby or the Depot. You must place your order by Feb. 5 at Outdoor Rec., Bldg 690.

**BOSS Elections:** Feb. 2 at 3 p.m. at the dining facility. Plus, we'll talk about fundraisers and trips.

### Road Closure

A section of Via D' Annunzio between the Blue Marlin intersection and the first bridge going toward Pisa will be blocked off to all traffic from Jan. 16- Feb. 14. If you are traveling west to Marina Di Pisa, or live on the other side of Pisa toward Vicarillo, you will have to take an alternative route.

### ACS

**Benvenuti a Camp Darby Feb 12th:** New to Camp Darby? Attendance is mandatory for Army newcomers, and childcare is free, but you must register in advance.

**Veterans Administration:** A representative from Aviano, Irene Pederson, will come to Camp Darby

and hold a community briefing March 27, 9 a.m.-noon in the Sgt. Maj. Shields Conference room. If you will be advising or reviewing records for medical discharge, please attend the briefing. Individual appointments are available from 1-5 p.m. Call ACS for more information or to schedule an individual appointment

**Cooking Demonstration Feb. 13:** Learn how to make Italian sweets for your sweetie! The class is free and starts at 1 p.m. at ACS.

### Super Bowl XLI Party

Feb. 4 the fun starts at 9 p.m. and goes until the game's over. We've got hot dogs, chili, chips and dip to enjoy along with cool refreshing beverages! Lots of give-a-ways!

Enjoy it in the Blue Room on the large projection screen! Kickoff is at midnight. For details, contact the Darby Community Club at 633-7855.

### Outdoor Recreation

Sign up for ski trips and rent your equipment from Outdoor Rec by calling 633-7775 or 7491. Next trips:

**Feb. 3:** Abetone  
**Feb. 10:** Monte Cimone

### Black History Month

**Feb. 3:** Madden Tournament at the DCC at noon for kids over 13.

**Feb. 10:** Black History Gospel Extravaganza and the Livorno Jubilation Choir give a free performance 7 p.m. at post theater.

**Feb. 10:** Free dance contest for kids and teens at DCC at noon.

**Feb. 16:** Old School vs New School 3 p.m. at the gym.

**Feb. 24:** Free food tasting in the DCC from 4-6 p.m.

**Feb. 24:** Professional Comedy Show for ADULTS only at DCC from 7 p.m.-midnight. Tickets go on sale soon. Parents Night out reservations for Feb. 24 need to be made by Feb 16.

**Feb. 26:** Banquet with a guest speaker at 7 p.m. at the Darby Community Club.

### Auto Skills Center

Check out all the new additions and improvements at the grand re-opening Feb. 5 at 2 p.m.

### Youth Services

**Val-A-Grams-** order one for your favorite Valentine for only \$5 from the Torch Club. Call 633-7629

### School Age Services

**Internet Safety:** "Netsmartz" Workshop Feb. 5 at 4 p.m.

**Dance:** Feb. 2, 7-11 p.m.

### Bowling Center

Now open Monday-Saturday, 5-10 p.m., Sunday 4-9 p.m.

**Family Time:** Feb. 4, \$6 per hour, six people maximum per lane.

**Cosmic Bowling:** Feb. 3, \$5 per hour per person, shoes included.

### Darby ITR Trips

**Florence Guided tour Feb. 3:** Enjoy a day in this city of beauty and Renaissance culture with a three hour professionally guided tour.

**Wine Tasting in Castello Panaretta Feb. 5:** Tour the grounds and vineyards of Castello Panaretta and , enjoy a light lunch with the castle's Chianti Classico.

**Livorno Montenero Feb. 10:** Enjoy a tour through this seaside city and visit Museo Fattori and the Venezia Nuova district.

**Viareggio Carnevale Feb. 11, 18, and 25:** Don't miss the annual Carnevale celebration with their elaborate floats in the parade.

### Darby Chapel

**8:30 a.m.:** Catholic Reconciliation with Father Gregory

**9:30 a.m.:** Catholic Mass

**11:15 a.m.:** Protestant worship

**Club Beyond Pancake Breakfast:** Feb. 4 in Mertz Hall, the youth are raising money to go on a service project to Slovakia over spring break.

**RCIA:** Saturdays, 6:15-7:30 p.m. at Mertz Hall.

**Pilgrimage to Rome:** Feb. 16-19. Sign up sheet is in Mertz Hall following Mass.

### Fitness Center

**Volleyball Sign-Up:** Is your team ready for the upcoming volleyball season? Four person teams with eight players maximum per roster are allowed. Call 633-7438 for details.

**3 on 3 Basketball Tournament Feb. 24-25:** We'll take the first eight teams signed up with four players maximum per team. Entry fees benefit D.A.R.E.

**Massage Therapy:** If you purchased a ticket from the fitness center to get a massage from Vickie, you must schedule an appointment and redeem it before Feb. 28.

## National Security Personnel System local update

Capt. Raul Rovira  
Human Resource Director

With the conversion of all GS IMCOM-Europe employees to the National Security Personnel System this year, proper training is critical.

Camp Darby is offering employee and supervisor training and hosting a Town Hall to help set the foundation for the successful implementation and integration of NSPS.

Livorno's NSPS Town Hall meeting will be Feb. 14 at the Camp Darby Theater from 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Subject matter experts from IMCOM Europe and the Vicenza Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will be present to answer questions employees and supervisors may have about the new system.

Additionally, Camp Darby GS employees need to take the NSPS 101 online training course on the official NSPS Web site

[www.cpms.osd.mil](http://www.cpms.osd.mil).

NSPS 101 serves as a recommended prerequisite for the classroom sessions and covers core NSPS elements such as a conversion calculator to determine career group, pay band and pay schedule, as well as estimated prorated within-grade increase buy-in.

After completing the on-line training, you will need to retain a hard copy of your NSPS 101 training certificate.

Once NSPS 101 online training is completed, employees need to enroll on the CHRTAS site for the "Human Resource Elements and Performance Management for Employees Course."

This one day class is available on Camp Darby Feb. 26, 27 and 28, but you must sign up for it on the CHRTAS Web site: [www.atrrs.army.mil/channels/chrtas](http://www.atrrs.army.mil/channels/chrtas).

This class will teach employees how to work in a performance-

based organization, how to develop performance-based objectives and how their performance will be rated under NSPS. Employees will also be able to voice concerns and receive answers by qualified personnel.

All supervisors who have GS employees on their staff need to sign up for the two-day course offered March 1-2 on Camp Darby, and must also register for the class on the CHRTAS Web site.

This class covers NSPS classification architecture, conversion process, hiring flexibility, workforce shaping, performance management system, performance evaluation process, job objectives, pay pool and rewarding performance.

Both the employee and supervisor training classes are held in the Sgt. Maj. Shield Conference room.

For details, contact NSPS Transition manager, Marion Smith, at 634-6423.

## The path to becoming a warrior



Left to right- Youth take the beginning stance at their Self Defense course offered by Camp Darby Youth Services. The course teaches the youth not only how to defend themselves, but also the importance of discipline, self control, patience, confidence and courage. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joyce Costello, USAG Livorno Public Affairs)

# Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

## Exhibitions

**Vicenza:** The first hunting and fishing exhibition will be held in the Vicenza exhibition grounds Feb. 3-4, open both days from 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m. The entrance fee is 10 euro.

**Venice:** Art in Palazzo Franchetti - the exhibition 'Self portrait' is taking place.

More than 70 works of art on loan from the Uffizi Gallery in Florence.

The self-portraits shown presents five centuries of painting, recounted through portrayal of the face: the face of people who have left their mark on history - Raphael, Tintoretto, Carracci, Boldini, Marc Chagall, and more.

It's open every day from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., through May 6. Entrance fee is 9 euro.

**Romano d'Ezzelino:** The car museum 'Luigi Bonfanti,' in this town in the province of Bassano, features an exhibiton: "Aurelia, simbolo di un secolo Lancia", (Aurelia, symbol of a Lancia century).

Besides a Aurelia Berlina, find a prototype Florida, created by Pininfarina and two Vignale coupes.

The cars are on exhibit until March 24. Open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m.-noon and 2:30-6:30 p.m. Entrance fee is 7 euro.

## Tribute to James Brown

A tribute to James Brown will be held at the 'Palladium,' in Torri di Quartesolo Feb. 9 at 10 p.m.

Live music will be performed by 'Onxside - The Godsons of Soul.'

## Carnival time

**Malo:** 17 km from Vicenza, carnival parades on Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 20 there will be an entrance fee;

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

**Casale di Scodosia,** province of Padova. This year events take place Feb. 11 and 18 with a parade and antique cars at 2 p.m., lead by a band and majorettes; also find a market and a 'make-up tent.'

**Cento,** province of Ferrara. One of the biggest carnival parades in Europe. Parades begin at 2 p.m. Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 25.

**Ivrea:** Located in the province of Torino celebrates this period with 'orange battles.'

There are teams on carts drawn by two or four horses which engage

in battle with teams of hundreds of people on foot throwing oranges.

The fights take place Feb. 18, 19 and 20 at 2:15 p.m. Full information in English on [www.carnevaledivrea.it](http://www.carnevaledivrea.it)

## Ice skating

**Verona:** Find an ice skating rink in Piazza Bra, open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-midnight, open until Feb. 4.

Fees: adults 6 euro; children 4 euro; all proceedings go to the disabled.

## St. Valentine's Day dinner

**Bevilacqua:** The restaurant in the castle of Bevilacqua, province of Verona, is taking reservations for a candlelight dinner at 8:30 p.m. Feb. 14.

Cost is 40 euro and includes water and wine.

On Feb. 20 at 8:30 p.m. is last day of carnival. A medieval meal featuring knights and jugglers, with dancing later in the evening, will cost 35 euro for adults (includes water and wine); children 5-10 years of age 20 euro.

Participants may rent a medieval costume for the event for 20 euro.

## Valentine's Day Market

**Pozzoleone:** The 259th annual St. Valentines market takes place beginning Feb. 10 and markets for all tastes can be enjoyed.

On Feb. 11 an antique market will take place and is open 8:30 a.m.- 6 p.m.

On Feb 11, 17, 18 an outdoor exhibition-market displaying agricultural machinery, farm animals, and a market with 300 stalls selling clothing articles and bric-a-brac is open 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

In a covered area north of the church is an exhibit of art and photos, furniture, sports equipment and more. It's open Feb. 10 and 16 from 8:30-11:30 p.m.; Feb. 11, 17 and 18 from 8:30 a.m.- 11:30 p.m. There is also a small fairground with rides. Musical groups play at 8:30 p.m. and food stands are set up. Pozzoleone is small, so expect crowds and parking problems, but there is usually a shuttle bus available for a small fee.

## Outlet shopping

There are several factory outlet

centers in Italy - a few are:

**Mantova:** In the 'Fashion Outlet,' find the latest in clothes, shoes, sportswear and more with brand names such as Miss Sixty, Calzedonia, LJ; Gucci, Valentino, Tommy and others.

There are also bars and restaurants available.

Open Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Directions leave the autostrada at Mantova sud and follow signs for 'Fashion Outlet.'

**Serravalle Scrivia:** 'McArthur Glen Outlet' has more than 170 stores, including some of the world's best-known names in fashion, sport and homewares to include Clarks/Lacoste, Levi's/Dockers, Nike, Fiorucci and more.

Open Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday-Sunday 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Directons are at: [www.serravalle.mcarthurglen.it](http://www.serravalle.mcarthurglen.it)

There is another 'McArthur' outlet located between Bologna-Florence, exit Barberino di Mugello. With 95 stores, it's open Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-8 p.m., and weekends 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

**Mendrisio:** 'Fox Town' is located on Via Maspoli 28, very close to the border between Italy and Switzerland.

There are 140 top Italian and international brands, a bar, restaurants, and an ATM.

Open everyday 11 a.m.- 7 p.m. Check out the website: [www.foxtown.ch](http://www.foxtown.ch) for directions.

**S. Pietro di Legnago:** A little nearer (in the province of Verona), but much smaller, is a factory outlet by the Max Mara group - a fashionable women's store.

For an idea of prices and what is on sale check out [www.diffusione tessile.it](http://www.diffusione tessile.it) although in Italian, it's easy enough to understand. Click on 'punti vendita' for directions.

Open Tuesday-Friday 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-7:30 p.m., open all day Saturday, and Monday afternoons.

**Castel Gelfo:** Outlet City, with 49 stores, is located 25 km east of Bologna on the A14. Exit at Castel San Pietro Terme and follow directions.

Open Monday 2-7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; weekends 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

**Ospitaletto:** The Outlet Village Franciacorta has 160 stores and is located near Brescia.

Find details at the Web site: [www.franciacortaoutlet.it](http://www.franciacortaoutlet.it).

# Now Showing

## Caserma Ederle Theater

Jan. 30	CLOSED	
Jan. 31	Casino Royale (PG13)	7 p.m.
Feb. 1	Casino Royale (R)	7 p.m.
Feb. 2	De'Ja Vu (PG13)	7 p.m.
	Let's Go to Prison (R)	10 p.m.
Feb. 3	Deck the Halls (PG)	4 p.m.
	Catch and Release (PG13) (First Run)	7 p.m.
Feb. 4	Deck the Halls (PG)	4 p.m.
	The Holiday (PG13)	7 p.m.
Feb. 5	CLOSED	
Feb. 6	CLOSED	

## Camp Darby Theater

Feb. 1	We Are Marshall (PG) (First Run)	6 p.m.
Feb. 2	Blood Diamond (R) (First Run)	6 p.m.
Feb. 3	The Pursuit of Happyness (PG13)	6 p.m.
Feb. 4	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.

**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."

**CATCH AND RELEASE** - *Jennifer Garner, Timothy Olyphant.* After the sudden death of her fiancé, Gray Wheeler finds comfort in the company of his friends: lighthearted and comic Sam, hyper-responsible Dennis, and, oddly enough, his old childhood buddy Fritz, an irresponsible playboy whom she'd previously pegged as one of the least reliable people in the world. As secrets about her supposedly perfect fiancé emerge, Gray comes to see new sides of the man she thought she knew, and at the same time, finds herself drawn to the last man she ever expected to fall for.

**DECK THE HALLS** - *Danny DeVito, Matthew Broderick.* Steve, a suburban dad and Christmas enthusiast, leads a well-ordered, well-planned, and well-organized life. His new neighbor, Buddy, is Steve's polar opposite: a big personality with big dreams, which have yet to materialize. But Buddy's latest dream -to create the biggest holiday light display in the world, visible from outer space - is turning Steve's disciplined world into a chaotic nightmare.

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).

**220 v Microwave, coffeemaker, blender, and mixer:** \$40 for all.

**Living room furniture:** \$250.

**Bedroom furniture:** \$ 150.

**Women's snowboard and bindings:** \$150

**Blue Willow China:** Service for 8, \$200.

**Private rental sought:** Need 3 bdrms, must allow pets.

**'97 Audi Quattro:** "S6 Plus" limited, \$11,000.

**Car needed:** Must be reliable, in \$500-\$700

**1992 Alfa Romeo:** Automatic. Good Car.

**Breast Pump:** Perfect condition. 110v A/C adaptor, 6AA batteries, or use an adaptor. \$50.

**HP/Compaq Presairo:** Price lowered to \$500. Call for details.

**17" Rims and Racing Tires:** Price lowered to \$550! Must sell!

**Puppies wanted:** Have a large house in the Vicenza area with a medium size-yard.

**91 Ford Fiesta:** Price reduced! Dependable, good condition. \$700.

**1984 VW Golf (Euro Spec):** \$650, good condition.

**1994 Lexus ES 300:** \$2,000, OBO. US Specs.



The fierce figurehead is on the bow of a ship at the Expo Port. This ship was used in the Roman Polanski movie "Pirates." It is next to the Galata maritime museum. You can board it and walk on the decks for a small fee, but it is not functional ship and is unable to sail on the open sea.



Floral tribute to Christopher Columbus's first three ships at the Piazza della Vittoria.



Above: A view of the Genoa Aquarium and port. At over 10,000 square meters and 71 tanks, the aquarium is one of the largest in the world. For more information on Genoa and the numerous family-friendly attractions, visit the Web site: [www.portoantico.it](http://www.portoantico.it). The Web site has a button for English.

## Genoa: Home of Christopher Columbus

By Staff Sgt. Joyce Costello  
USAG Livorno Public Affairs  
Photos by Sgt. Ryan Haraschak  
AFN Livorno

Looking beyond the colorful cruise ships full of tourists with cameras poised, ready to capture the standard postcard shot, and the wide array of foreign dock workers talking in sounds that some might think as clicking and clucking, you'll find Genoa is an Italian port city worth exploring.

Genoa is believed to be named after the two-headed *Giano Bifronte*, an ancient mythological god, which is the protector of ships and coins.

The port of Genoa, once just a natural inlet, started to become active as early as the 5th century BC. The first port facilities, for which there are records, date back to shortly after the year 1000 AD.

Genoa – like the two-headed *Giano* – has two faces: the Italian Riviera looking out to sea, with its mountainous coast surrounded by olives and vines, and the second face of heavy industry.

It has always been the crossroads of traffic and culture between Europe and the Mediterranean sea.

The Genoa Aquarium is Europe's largest aquarium and one of the most popular cultural venues to be found in Italy.

The 71 tanks, which are constantly renovated, faithfully reproduce the habitats of the Mediterranean and of the oceans, of the pole and of the tropical islands, ensuring life and reproduction for the more than 500 fish species on site.

But Genoa may be best known to Americans as the birthplace of Christopher Columbus (1451-1506), who is credited with founding "The

New World, and the Americas.

Down at the port, at the *Galata Museo del Mare* is a Christopher Columbus exhibit celebrating 500 years in the Mediterranean. The exhibit is open through Oct. 15.

Genoa's newest tribute to Columbus is the inauguration of the *Columbus Galleria* set for Oct. 11, at 5 p.m. at the Archive of the State of Saint Ignazio, which will look at Columbus's contribution as a man between the old and new world.

When Columbus originally approached the bankers of Genoa to finance his trip, he was turned down because they thought he had miscalculated the distance.

Pretty smart for a time when many thought the world was flat. However, he did get funding from the rulers of Spain and the new world would never be the same again.

Columbus' house is located in downtown historic district and open to the public on Saturdays, Sundays and on special occasions, like Columbus Day.

In fact, the American community in Genoa has joined local authorities for commemorative ceremonies at the Columbus house and for this year's ceremony, they will lay a wreath and the winner of the Paganini International Violin Competition will play Paganini's "*Cannone*."

Columbus is only one of many historical figures from Genoa, but history is much more exciting when explored first-hand.

Vicenza's Information, Tours and Registration has a trip to Genoa that includes transportation, entrance to the Genoa Aquarium and escort assistance.

Reserve your place by calling Vicenza's ITR at 634-7094 or emailing them at [itr@vicenzamwr.com](mailto:itr@vicenzamwr.com).



Above: The *Grande Bigo* whisks visitors 200 feet up in the air for a panoramic view of the port.