



The Outlook

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Cavalry troops battle command group for Gunga Din title

Story and photos by Spc. Matthis Chiroux
USAREUR Public Affairs

The morning was cold, the mud was deep, the air was damp and the hills were steep. The leaders of 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment were in their element.

For six hours, they carried heavy rucksacks and weapons while trekking more than 15 miles of Schweinfurt's rugged countryside, stopping only at checkpoints to tackle mystery tasks designed by a squadron sergeant major whose taste for training matched only his creative ingenuity.

Lt. Col. Christopher Kolenda, 1-91 commander, said the march is named after Rudyard Kipling's poem, Gunga Din, which chronicles the life and death of a faithful Indian water boy who served alongside British infantrymen during the 19th century.

Throughout the trek, "though belted and flayed," the 1-91 CAV teams struggled on, just as in Kipling's poem. Their task was simple: make it to the end before their commander, who would only then acknowledge, "You're a better man than I am, Gunga Din."

"If any team finishes before me, they get the title," Kolenda said. "It comes with a whole lot of bragging rights."

The team-building exercise began at 4 a.m. Dec. 8 behind the unit's headquarters on Conn Barracks, just north of Schweinfurt.

Commanders, first sergeants, platoon sergeants and platoon leaders from each of 1-91's five companies, or troops as they're called in the cavalry, as well as its command group, had 20 minutes to sketch copies of a map before the original was taken away.

Afterwards, five-ton trucks hauled the six teams of seven Soldiers to start points scattered throughout the countryside.

Once on site, exercise coordinators

revealed to the teams that their current locations were not on their maps, but provided an azimuth pointing them in the right direction. After marching a few kilometers, the teams would have to locate their positions on their sketched maps using terrain association.

"There's a lot of unknowns incorporated into this," said the exercise designer, Sgt. Maj. Michael Kennedy, operations section sergeant major. "They don't know where they are going or how long they have to march. They don't know what task is coming up next. All they know is that they have to get to a point and figure something out or wait for a mission, just like in a real-world situation."

The course led the Soldiers through forests and muddy fields, down paved roads and across great stretches of damp grass. The partially overcast morning was undeniably beautiful, said Sgt. 1st Class Andreas Elliott, platoon sergeant, 2nd Platoon, A Troop, but as his heavy load began to feel heavier, his focus narrowed on the road ahead.

"In the end, we're here to finish," he said. "We're here to show that we can accomplish any task given to us, and the road from here to the end is pulling us together as leaders."

Another sergeant first class, who joined



Lt. Col. Christopher Kolenda, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment commander, leads his command group around a spur during the Gunga Din road march north of Schweinfurt, Germany, Dec. 8.

the 1-91 just a week prior to the Gunga Din challenge, also called the exercise valuable.

"It was good to get to know everybody and experience the pain of a forced ruck march," said Sgt. 1st Class Justin Brekken, platoon sergeant, 1st Platoon, A Troop. "There's nothing like a little pain to bring us all together."

In fact, bonding his squadron leaders together was one of the main objectives in Kolenda ordering the exercise.

"We have a lot of new leaders who've just joined us. By putting them together in a situation like this, we're forcing them to communicate; to get to know each other," Kolenda said. "They're learning to work together to accomplish a mission."

Such cohesiveness will be crucial to the

unit's success on their upcoming deployment to Iraq, he said, adding that the 1-91 will have a new role as they no longer use Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

"We haven't been given dates yet, but we know we're going," Kolenda said. "This will be our first mission since transforming from 1-4 Cav [the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment] last June.

"Many of our missions will be on foot," he said. "This training is also preparing us to accomplish a mission that differs from what we've traditionally trained for as cavalry."

See 1-91 CAV on page 4

New year is time to reflect on past, prepare for future

Maj. Gen. Frank G. Helmick
SETAF Commander

Welcome back! I trust you had a fun and relaxing time with your friends and family and are returning to work refreshed.

As every year comes and goes we look back at what we've done in the past and reflect on our accomplishments.

Over the past year we worked very hard with redeployment of many of our units in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, resetting all of their equipment, PCSing thousands of personnel in and out of SETAF, transforming the 173d Airborne Brigade into an Airborne Brigade Combat Team, preparing them for possible deployment, and preparing the SETAF headquarters for certification as a core of a Combined Joint Task Force.

All the while improving the quality of life with premier programs for soldiers and their families, supported by a first class Department of the Army and local Italian and German workforce doing the heavy lifting. It has been a remarkable year to be sure.

As we look forward to 2007 we cannot and will not rest on our accomplishments. We do not know what tomorrow will bring, but we do know that we will not ask if we are ready to go. Our leadership will expect



Maj. Gen. Frank G. Helmick

us to be ready as individuals and units for challenges ahead. I know each and everyone of you will do your absolute best to ensure you and your families are prepared professionally, personally, and spiritually for the next mission.

Melissa and I wish each and everyone one of you and your families continued good health, and professional and personal success in 2007.

With respect and admiration for all who serve our country and all who serve on the SETAF Team

Lions Lead AIRBORNE!

Post celebrates Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Equal Opportunity and
Equal Employment Opportunity Offices
Press Release

When Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act in 1994, it designated the King Holiday as a national day of volunteer service.

The USAG Vicenza offices of Equal Employment and Equal Opportunity want to increase the awareness of the service component of the holiday by encouraging the community to engage in projects such as tutoring and mentoring children, sponsoring and organizing service projects and forming teams to volunteer.

By participating in such events, we can help strengthen our community, bridge social and cultural differences and demonstrate the compassion and commitment to make a difference and honor Dr. King's memory.

Caserma Ederle will commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther

King Jr. Thursday. The event will kick off at 1 p.m. at the Ederle Theater with an inspirational tribute to the slain civil rights leader by Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Jordan, USAG Vicenza.

Immediately following the program, a Remembrance March will take place. The march will start at the theater and walk down Olson Avenue to the post chapel where refreshments will be available.

This year's event has been coordinated, in part, by Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Pospisil, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 509th Signal Battalion. Direct questions to her at 634-6433.



Left: The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. acknowledges the crowd at the Lincoln Memorial for his "I Have a Dream" speech during a march on Washington, D.C., on Aug. 28, 1963. About 250,000 people attended the march to urge support for impending civil-rights legislation. (Photo taken from the Seattle Times Web site: www.seattletimes.com)

Tighten up post

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

This is my fourth column about how we can tighten up post and I send out my thanks to you for doing your part in making the Vicenza military community a better place to live and work.

We've come a long way, but there are still some areas we need to work on. With a new year we have a new opportunity to tighten up our community and make Caserma Ederle a post to be proud of.

Among the challenges we face are the long-standing issues of overnight/resale parking and recycling.

Parking in lots

In general, when parking in a space at the post exchange, shoppette, or other parking lots on post, please make an effort to park centered between the lines.

This will afford proper space for the next vehicle to be able to enter and exit without hitting other vehicles' side panels, causing scratches, dings and so on.

Recycling

For those of you who are new to Italy (and as a reminder to those not-so-new) – recycling is the LAW, not an option.

In Italy and on Caserma Ederle we recycle glass/metals, plastic, paper and food waste.

Recycling is easy and every community hands out recycling guides for their specific villages. In the case that you have misplaced your copy, you may obtain another

brochure from the Housing Office.

Separating your trash is easy. You need five bins: one each for paper, glass/aluminum, plastic, humid waste (food scraps), and a final one for items that are not recyclable – pizza boxes, Styrofoam, some plastics, paper plates that may have food/grease on them, etc.

A list of recyclable items is available from the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Engineering office at 634-7166.

On post we have not only an Eco-Center, which is located behind the Ederle Inn and takes everything from batteries to furniture to plastics and more; but we also have many 'mini-Eco centers' located all over post, as well as the small metal recycling bins. There really is no reason NOT to recycle.

One such mini-Eco center was recently moved from the post chapel parking lot to the new overnight/long-term and BOSS parking lot, located behind building 28 in the old campground.

Overnight/Long-Term Parking

For those community members who go TDY, on leave, or on an overnight trip with ITR, the procedure for authorization to leave your vehicle on post is also simple.

Only personnel who live on Caserma Ederle or work at night can park a vehicle overnight on post. This policy was established to help alleviate the parking shortage we all experience.

Vehicles left overnight or on a long-term basis take away valuable parking from our community.

Anyone going TDY, on an ITR trip or on leave should go to the



Command Sgt. Maj. Keith Filipp

MP station and request a long-term parking space, which is located behind the finance offices.

A point of contact and phone number must be annotated on the request form in case the vehicle has to be moved for emergency purposes. Questions may be directed to the Provost Marshal Operations office at 634-8891.

Vehicle Resale Parking Lot

In accordance with SETAF Reg 190-2, the only authorized location to park vehicles for sale is the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers resale lot which is behind the finance building (bldg 28).

There is a one time fee of \$5 which goes directly to support our local BOSS program.

A registration card (which must be displayed in the vehicle window) can be obtained at the Vehicle Registration Office, located in Torri, or by calling 634-7001 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

By following regulations and laws, we can help keep Caserma Ederle looking sharp and a source of pride for America and our Italian counterparts.

Vicenza Tax Center opens Jan. 16, positions available

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

The Vicenza Tax Center opens Jan. 16 for tax assistance, electronic preparation, and electronic filing of federal and state income tax returns.

In anticipation of the Tax Center, people are encouraged to insure tax documents are retained and secured during the end of year festivities.

Anyone interested in employment as a tax preparer, or who would like to volunteer in the Tax Center, may contact the Legal Assistance Office at 634-7041 for more information.

As a general tax planning reminder, begin collecting the following so you are prepared to file your return once you receive all your income statements in January or February, 2007:

- ◆ A social security card for each family member
- ◆ Forms W-2 and 1099
- ◆ Advance child tax credit information (the \$400 parents received per child last summer)

- ◆ Child care expense information
- ◆ Direct deposit information for your bank
- ◆ All other information concerning your tax situation

For most taxpayers, our walk-in services will be available each business day on a first-come, first-served basis.

As in previous years, taxpayers with complicated returns can drop off their tax documents at the Legal Assistance Office for preparation of their state and federal returns. A complicated return is one with any of the following:

- ◆ Business income or loss (this includes home child care providers)
- ◆ Capital gain or loss from sale of stocks or mutual funds
- ◆ Rental real estate income or loss
- ◆ Schedule K1 income or loss
- ◆ Foreign earned income (any job for which you or your spouse was not paid in dollars)

For details on the Tax Center services, or what documents to bring, contact Mark Christensen, Client Services chief, at 634-8483.

Be a lung-saver

Train-the-trainer class offered for smoking cessation workshops

U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine-Europe
Press Release

The Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine-Europe will conduct an eight-hour Tobacco Cessation 'Train the Trainer' workshop from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Jan. 23. The training takes place in the U.S. Army Health Clinic Vicenza clinic classroom.

The objectives of the training are:

- Describe the philosophy and how the clinic program is designed to support individuals in making a challenging health behavior change.

- Identify and demonstrate the factors that motivate and empower adults to attempt behavioral change, both as individuals and as members of a group program.

- Demonstrate the experiential learning cycle and facilitation skills.

- Examine and demonstrate communication skills needed for success in facilitating the clinic program.

- Review the clinic program "Nuts and Bolts" section:

structure, format, content, and program administrative/marketing.

- Apply the learning principles of the Training Workshop to the content of the Clinic Program through actually practicing these skills.

- Review ERM Regulation No. 40-17 (May 2001), Tobacco Cessation with Pharmacological Therapy, and the ERM Balanced Scorecard metric for evaluation of the classes.

All workshop materials and manuals will be paid for and provided by USACHPPM-EUR Department of Health Promotion and Wellness.

Participants will receive continuing education units/credits for the course. Upon completion of the workshop and passing a "teachback", the participant will be certified as an American Lung Association Tobacco Cessation instructor.

Attire for the workshop is civilian clothing.

For details, or questions about the course, contact Lesley Gómez at 634-8828 or e-mail lesley.gomez@SETAF.army.mil.



This parking lot is located behind the Finance Offices (bldg 28) in the former camp grounds on Caserma Ederle and is for authorized overnight parking and the authorized BOSS resale parking lot. It also houses the mini-Eco Center, which was formerly sitting along the bypass on Olson Avenue, in front of the Chapel. (Photo by Pfc. Crystal Abbott, SETAF Public Affairs)

Vicenza Elementary School students make Honor Roll

Vicenza Elementary School
Special to the Outlook

Congratulations to the following students – keep up the good work!

All As and A+s

Cameron Ames, Dale Howell, Whitley Miller, William Ostland, and Jackson Pierce.

All A/B & +s/P

Andres Afanador, Adriana Almodova, Matthew Arthur, Gabriel Babin, Hannah Babin, Alyssa Belkofer, Morganne Bender, Jason Bly, Alexander Boland, Cade Born, Shelby Bowers, Nicolas Bly, Darius Cade, Devyn Cade, C.J. Calabrese, Dahve Campbell, Mykhealah Cash, Austin Casper, Michael Catena, Margaret Chinchin, Brandon Clark, Jerome Cook, Nydjie Cothias, Alexis Crook, Teresa Dean, JonLuca DeCaro, Risa Dormer, Dagon

Emerson, Lance Erickson, Luka Fatuesi, Caitlin Fleming, Michael Fochs, Steven Fragger, Tyler Gafford, Savannah Gallant, Rima Gasparini, Porsha Gathers-Grossett, Sydney George, Noah Ghiz, Georgiana Gibson, Eriq Gilbert, Minna Green, James Halbert, Patrice Haynes, Charleigh Heater, Teresa Hernandez, David Heryford, Arianna Higgins, Emily Hollenbaugh, Brittany Hudgins, Michael Lamora, Jonathan Lombardi, Paola Lora, Nicholas Loos, Marissa Manzanalez, Alexis Matallana, Lindsey McCann, Kaitlin McKeever, Maddie McKeever, Caroleena Mejia, Shayne Meyers, Axel-Jose Munoz, Taylor Nattress, Tahn Nguyen, Nicolas Ochart, Samantha O'Leary, Sarah O'Neill, Karissa Page, Ivan Perez, Peter Perry, Emily-Jo Pierce, Andrew Pitts, Alexandra Pollitt, Alex Preysler,

Charles Preysler, Etienne Pugh, Sean Quinn, Alexander Rakas, McKelly Rentas, O'lianna Reyter, Samantha Rodriguez, Noelani Rollins, Luke Ross, Mia Segura, David Shimp, Reagan Shimp, Courtney Shrewsbury, Chelsea Sias, Abigail Skundrich, Dominick Smith, Lorena Somera, Chane Sonsalla, Bethany Sosa, Ben Stevenson, Madelaine Stevenson, Mikaela Swaims, JPSweed, Antonio Tartaglia, Wesley Tavares, Lauren Thiessen, Mikayla Thompson, Rebekah Thompson, Bryan Thyng, Diane Thyng, Ian Tramm, Will Tramm, Lia Triscari, Emily Tucker, Sarah Tucker, Francesca Wade, Sarah Watts, Michael Wells, Jade Westlake, Chase Whitmire, Allyson Whittaker, Brock Whittaker, Corei Wilson, Naomi Yocum, and Keyaira Young.

Army Community Services offers programs, events

By Christine Weld
Outlook Volunteer

Army Community Service exists for the benefit of all members of the Vicenza community and truly has resources for everyone. ACS, located in Davis Family Readiness Center, should be the first stop for anyone looking for community information.

"ACS is the best organization for information and referral. If you're not sure who to ask, call ACS," advises Rita Bonamego, Community Readiness officer.

In addition to being a great resource about Army life and the Vicenza community, ACS offers several programs that target specific people and topics.

New Parent Education and Support Program

For new parents who live away from their normal support system, the New Parent Education and Support program offers both education and support.

Together with the U.S. Army Health Clinic-Vicenza, the program offers a series of four classes, offered on a regular basis to expectant parents.

Topics covered include how to swaddle newborns, how to change diapers and breastfeeding basics. The class even offers fathers the chance to try out an "empathy belly," so they can experience a little bit of what their partners are going through.

"It's a nice way to help fathers empathize with the feelings and emotions of their spouses," says Andreina Howard, who runs the New Parent Education and Support program.

New Parent Education and Support is especially helpful for first-time parents, but all parents are welcome to take advantage of the services. The program aims to follow children through their 4th birthday, and helps parents understand their child's growth and development. Among other services offered are a playgroup and a comfortable space for breastfeeding mothers.

For more information, contact Andreina Howard at 634-7567.

Exceptional Family Member Program

An exceptional family member is a spouse, child, stepchild, adopted child or a dependent parent residing with the sponsor who may require medical or educational services based upon a diagnosed physical, medical, intellectual or emotional need. The Exceptional Family Member Program works with eligible families by giving information, referrals, workshops, support groups, relocation assistance and crisis intervention. The EFMP can also act as an advocate for the family.

To enroll in EFMP, visit the

Frances Packard, EFMP manager at ACS or contact the patient representative at the health clinic. Enrollment is mandatory and the exceptional family member must be re-enrolled at least every three years unless his or her condition changes before that time.

To learn more about EFMP, call Frances Packard, EFMP manager, at 634-8528.

Army Family Team Building

Army Family Team Building believes that strong families are the pillars of support behind strong Soldiers. AFTB is a volunteer-led organization that provides training and knowledge to spouses and family members to support the total Army effort.

AFTB Level I focuses on the basic skills and knowledge needed to live the military life. Level II allows the participant to grow into a community leader. Finally, Level III goes into inspiring and mentoring others into leadership positions.

In response to a community need, AFTB will be offering evening classes with childcare provided. The next round of AFTB classes begins in August. For those not able to attend AFTB in person, there is also the option to take the classes online at www.myarmylifetoo.org.

To sign up for an AFTB class or for more information, contact Kelly Walker or Comel Room at 634-8526.

Employment Readiness

Spouses and family members seeking employment can contact the Employment Readiness Program for help with all matters job-related.

"We are here for spouses and family members. Our primary mission is to assist spouses and family members in achieving their career goals," says Allie Vallery, program manager.

The staff can assist with writing resumes, researching job postings, navigating the application process at the various base facilities and helping determine a suitable



The Employment Readiness manager helps a Caserma Ederle community member with her resume. (Outlook file photo)



A child makes a card for her parents as part of SPARK, a program put on by ACS to help families reintegrate after a deployment. (Outlook file photo)

career path. The program also holds job fairs twice a year.

For more information, contact Allie Vallery at 634-6884.

Community Readiness

An informed and well-prepared community is a successful community, and Rita Bonamego works tirelessly to ensure that the Vicenza community is prepared. As the Community Readiness Officer, Bonamego oversees training of Family Readiness Group leaders and other aspects of community, deployment and mobilization readiness.

Community Readiness also offers the TIPS program, or Translator Interpreter Program Services. Volunteers provide translation services for troops and family members, making it easier to overcome the language barrier many newcomers face.

Bonamego also continually assesses the needs of the community and develops additional workshops and programs to meet the specific needs of the Vicenza community.

To find out more about Community Readiness, contact Rita Bonamego at 634-8523.

Relocation Readiness Program

New arrivals to the Vicenza area will find a wealth of resources at Relocation Readiness. The program assists relocating soldiers, family members and DoD civilians by providing them with the tools necessary for a smooth relocation process.

Services available include welcome packets, sponsorship training, information on local organizations and pre-and post-move counseling.

The program also offers classes to help ease the transition to Italy. The *Benvenuti* class welcomes newcomers and gives information on Italian language, culture and local resources. A tour of the hospital is also included.

The Standard Installation Topics Exchange Service program, called SITES, provides information on military facility worldwide, and is an extensive resource for those transitioning to the Vicenza community. The SITES program can be accessed at www.dmdc.osd.mil/sites.

For help with all matters relating to relocation, contact Jolly Miller at 634-8525.

Volunteer Recruitment and Placement Program

Those looking to contribute their skills to the Vicenza community should visit the Volunteer Recruitment and Placement Program. Randie Gibson, VRPP coordinator works to recruit, interview, place and support volunteers throughout the installation.

The VRPP offers a database of volunteer opportunities, volunteer recognition events, a volunteer council and volunteer orientation.

To learn about volunteer positions, contact Jolly Miller at 634-7942.

Family Advocacy Program

The Family Advocacy Program works to strengthen families through education, activities and treatment programs. Many programs for families are offered, including cooking classes and arts and crafts projects.

In addition to fun, family-centered activities, the FAP office also works to prevent and reduce domestic violence, child abuse and child neglect through consultation, referrals, conflict resolution, stress management programs and intervention activities.

If necessary, the FAP program can provide emergency foster care for children and safe houses for adults and children. The staff can be contacted 24 hours a day.

The Sexual Assault Response Coordinator is available to provide victims of sexual assault with assistance and counseling. SARC can also be contacted 24 hours a day.

To learn more about FAP, call Tammy Wilbur-Hoistad at 634-7314. To contact SARC, call 634-6269, 0444-71-6269 from off post.



"Muffins for Mom," brings children and moms together before school starts, and is one of the events put on by the Family Advocacy Program. "Doughnuts for Dad" is another parent/child event. (Outlook file photo)

Financial Readiness Program and Army Emergency Relief

Financial Readiness offers a wide range of services to prepare Soldiers and family members to successfully manage their financial affairs. Through financial counseling, consumer advocacy, budget counseling and investment information, Financial Readiness helps educate the community on money management, proper use of credit and financial planning.

The program focuses on educational activities that help families prevent financial difficulties. Counselors are available to work with soldiers and family members to establish budgets, work with creditors, provide tax information and file consumer complaints.

For those facing debt, the Financial Readiness Program can help to arrange to pay off debts by encouraging clients to work with creditors to gain manageable financial positions.

The Army Emergency Relief program offers financial help to those in emergency situations in the form of interest-free relief loans and grants.

AER also offers tuition assistance for spouses and children.

Contact Jolly Miller for more information at 634-8524.

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Bye, bye Peanut! Boy Scout service project helps clean up off post community

By Diana Bahr
USAG Vicenza Public Affairs

If you've noticed a pleasant change to the bridge abutments under the Aldo Moro overpass, thank Vicenza Boy Scout Troop 295. Gone are the ugly graffiti, trash and overgrown weeds that were a public eyesore to those traveling the road and residents whose windows overlooked the area.

"Major General [Frank] Helmick mentioned during a meeting that he was disgusted by the graffiti on the bridge abutments along Aldo Moro," said Ellen Eldredge, Boy Scout Troop 295 leader. "[Lt. Col.] Tim Loney's son, Tim, is a member of the troop and he told General Helmick that the Boy Scouts were looking for a service project and he would suggest cleaning up the graffiti to the troop."

"I think a service project like this shows Italians that Americans care about how the property off the post looks like, too," said 17-year-old Michael Busatta, one of several Italian youth who are members of Troop 295. Busatta has been a Boy Scout for 12 years—all of them with Troop 295. While he actually has no ties to post, it was his American-born mother who learned about the troop and enrolled him, all the while being a steadfast volunteer.

Since the project involved painting and cleaning property off post, permission had to come from the Vicenza commune,



Boy Scouts from Troop 295 begin to paint over the graffiti on one of the bridge abutments for via Aldo Moro, located off the main entrance to Caserma Ederle. The Scouts, along with help from adult leaders, spent most of Dec. 16 clearing debris and painting over the graffiti that disfigured the columns as a service project. (Photo courtesy of David Eldredge)

otherwise, painting over the graffiti would be considered graffiti by the local Polizia and/or Carabinieri, and the Scouts could be ticketed if seen.

Under the guidance of Eldredge and Alli Littleton, who works in the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security for USAG Vicenza, and whose son, Kyle is a member of the troop, the project began to take shape.

We started by contacting the garrison Deputy NATO Liaison, Colonel Rando, said Littleton. He, in turn, took the matter to Vicenza officials and was able to obtain permission to paint over the graffiti, she continued.

"We then spoke with Lieutenant Colonel Spolaore [Commander of the SETAF Carabinieri] to let him know of our plans, so he could inform his troops," said Littleton. "The Vicenza Military Spouses and Civilians Club provided us with funds to purchase paint brushes and buckets. The Directorate of Public Works donated paint and Command Sergeant Major [Keith] Filipp helped us with rollers and other items. This was truly a community effort."

As the project was set to take place Dec. 16, the main concern was the weather – if it rained or snowed, the project would have to be postponed, and it needed to be at least 40 degrees out for the boys to paint, and in the cold weather, it would take several hours for the paint to dry. This would hamper their ability to put on the several coats it was estimated it would take to cover the graffiti.

"We began at 8 a.m. and started by preparing the site," said Eldredge. "The boys began clearing away the brush and vines from the pillars and picking up garbage. Once that was done, they could start painting."

While the work was underway, local residents outside walking pets, coming to and from local market – or perhaps simply curious about the event – stopped to watch the progress.

"At one point the local Polizia stopped by and began asking questions," said Eldredge. "We were worried that they would try to make us stop our work."

"Fortunately, moments later some SETAF Carabinieri drove up, followed by Colonel Rando," chimed in Littleton.

"They took care of the situation, explaining that we had the necessary approval to paint the pillars. The polizia actually seemed impressed that teenage boys were removing graffiti, instead of spraying it!" she said with a laugh.

By 1 p.m., the boys were on their third, and final, coat of paint, and by 2 p.m. they

were loading up supplies and bags of trash to take to the recycling center.

"This was one of the better service projects I've worked on," said Scout Darren Eldredge. "Other projects we've done included landscaping and painting the benches in front of the Art Center and cleaning up the small park across from the high school."

While the teens know it's only a matter of time before the pillars again become targets for vandals, it didn't dissuade them from tackling the project and being proud of the results.

"It is a bit annoying to know that graffiti will be back," said Kyle Littleton. "But then we get to come and clean it up again for another service project – and that gives us more hours and enables us to move up in the Scouting world!"



Boy Scouts from Troop 295 put on a final coat of paint to ensure coverage of the ugly graffiti that was sprayed on the pillars for the via Aldo Moro overpass. The work was performed Dec. 15 as a service project to help beautify the community. (Photo by Diana Bahr, USAG Vicenza Public Affairs)



The leader of Boy Scout Troop 295 helps pick up trash from the area underneath the via Aldo Moro overpass where the Scouts were painting over graffiti Dec. 15. (Photo courtesy of David Eldredge)

Gunga Din title remains elusive

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"We'll be up close, this time, face to face with the enemy," he continued.

Besides the Gunga Din trekkers, the squadron's sniper team also used the event to train. Throughout the day, they watched teams from hiding spots in the woods.

"They're out there somewhere," Kennedy said. "They're hopefully trying to observe who's leading the mission, the types of weapons we're carrying and anything that would have intelligence value."

"They've already learned some valuable lessons today. For example, green camouflage sticks out like a sore thumb in the wood line this time of year," he added.

Marching Soldiers rarely spotted the snipers, not bad considering the age and experience of the three marksmen, said Kolenda, noting that the trio has yet to attend

sniper school.

The snipers were not the only junior Soldiers receiving training with the leadership; one sergeant single-handedly supervised the entire exercise, with a corporal as his assistant.

"This is good experience for them," Kennedy said. "This happens downrange, every day. Young guys have to step up and be leaders."

But as no team finished before the 1-91 command group, the title of Gunga Din will have to wait until the next march to possibly be awarded.

But that wasn't really the point of the day, Kolenda said.

"I'd like to see my Soldiers get there before me," he said, "but as long as they're learning and bonding, I'm happy. I'm proud of them all."



Soldiers from A troop of the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment identify weapons during a checkpoint mystery task as part of the Gunga Din march north of Schweinfurt, Germany, Dec. 8. (Photo by Spc. Matthis Chiroux, USAREUR Public Affairs)

Camp Darby Insight

Camp Darby community clothing drive helps Afghani people in need

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

There is something about the holiday season that brings out the generosity in folks, and the Camp Darby community had the opportunity to give until it hurt.

Staff Sgt. Randy Hubbard, a Soldier with the 497th Movement Control Team, 14th Transportation Battalion, who is deployed to Afghanistan, works with local contract civilians and saw that, even though these people had jobs, they had a real need for help.

Hubbard was touched by their plight and wanted to make a difference, so he asked his wife, Lacesia, to send him any old clothes their boys had outgrown.

Lacesia decided to take the call for help, one step further and, as the 497th MCT Family Readiness Group leader, she proposed to other family members that they do a clothing drive.

Working with the Mobilization and Deployment Outreach program coordinator, Ada Jacobs, the members of the FRG were able to pack up more than 14 large boxes of winter clothing donated by Camp Darby community members.

"I was especially surprised at how much women's winter clothing we received," commented Ada as she folded up articles of clothing. "When women help other women, it really empowers women to help themselves, their families and their children.

"I believe that is especially important for those women in Afghanistan, who might not get any warm winter clothing because they might not be as valued by their men and their culture," she said.

"I'm glad we can help those women who can't help themselves," added Lacesia. "I just wish I could see the look on my husband's face when all of these boxes arrive at the post office in Afghanistan."



Ada Jacobs (right) expresses her amazement to Lacesia Hubbard about the generous outpouring of donations for the Afghan people. Hubbard's husband, Staff Sgt. Randy Hubbard, is a member of the 497th Movement Control Team, 14th Transportation Battalion, and is deployed to Afghanistan. While working with local Afghans, he saw they had a need for winter clothing and asked his wife to send along clothing outgrown by the couple's children. Instead, Lacesia, took the matter to her Family Readiness Group and the Camp Darby community, the end result was more than 14 boxes of clothing donations sent downrange.

Camp Darby children get more reasons to love recess



Livorno Elementary School children race to be the first ones to use the new playground at the grand opening Dec. 12. The new playground has new landscaping, sprinklers and equipment targeted towards being a fun way for school children to increase their physical fitness. The playground was also designed to meet the needs of the middle school children who will use it after Livorno High School closes its doors in June 2007. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joyce Costello, USAG Livorno Public Affairs)

Camp Darby single Soldiers flip burgers to help Italian charities



Camp Darby Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers president volunteered to cook hamburgers at the American International League of Florence's Annual Charity Bazaar. A total of 12 Camp Darby volunteers helped raise money for Italian charities that don't receive aid from the Italian Government. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joyce Costello, USAG Livorno Public Affairs)

Army Family Team Building celebrates 12 years of helping family members

Story and photo
By Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

With the Army undergoing transformation and deployments becoming a way of life, it's more important than ever to ensure that spouses and family members have a clear understanding their role in the military family – and the skills necessary to cope with challenges that may arise during these times.

This is where programs such as Army Family Team Building come in.

"It's a program that teaches classes to family members, civilians and Soldiers about all aspects of Army life, how to thrive in a pretty challenging lifestyle," explained Kelley Thomas during the AFTB 12th Birthday celebration held Dec. 15. "This is the time when we can get our message out to the community and also passing out a needs assessment so that we are gauging what the community needs from our program. We'll take all those results back and we incorporate them into this year's curriculum."

"This is our big event for the year," said Thomas, who is one of the 21 instructors with the AFTB program.

Introducing the event was Melissa Helmick, wife of SETAF Commander, Maj. Gen. Frank G. Helmick, who recognized the support of AFTB program and its volunteers.



Community members from Caserma Ederle cut the cake to celebrate Army Family Team Building's 12th birthday. The event was held in the Vicenza Post Exchange food court Dec. 15. AFTB is holding Level 1 class Wednesday and Thursday in Davis Family Readiness Center, call 634-7500 or 8526 for details.

"On behalf of my husband and myself, I'd like to say that we appreciate your dedication and all the many hours you give for the program," said Helmick. "It mentors families, Soldiers, and DA civilians, in Army life skills, especially as the Army is transforming.

These skills transfer from post

to post, Helmick added, and noted that the program is 64 free hours of class time and provides free babysitting for those who attend.

AFTB Level I Training is offered Jan. 10-11 from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

For information, stop by the AFTB Office in Davis Family Readiness Center or call 634-8526, or 0444-71-8526 from off post.

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. 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.

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

1993 BMW 750i: Euro specs, automatic. \$4,850 or best offer. Boots: New, size 5R womens. \$30.

1997 Opel Vectra: Euro Specs. \$2,600.

6' Artificial Christmas Tree: 110 v, used once. \$40.

20" chrome rims and new tires: \$1000, or OBO.

2001 Mitsubishi Montero Sport ES Utility: 4-Door, Loaded. \$7800, OBO.

UMUC Text books: ECON 201, clean, ENG 101, Biology 101, PHIL 140, IFSM 201, PSYC 100 textbooks. \$30 each.

1984 Citron TRX19: 4-door Hatchback, w/\$150 phone. \$700.

Sofa: \$300, OBO.

Wanted: Looking for 8-track tapes to test 8-track player.

1998 Honda Civic: 2-door hatchback. Good condition. \$5,000 OBO.

Car Needed: Must be reliable. **Motorola C390 cell phone:** 75 euro or \$100.

Child car seats: \$70 each.

Stroller: \$80.

Swing: \$50.

Power Wheels child motorcycle: \$60.

Panasonic TV: 32 inch, \$50.

Italian two-seat and three-seat sofas: Excellent condition, \$300 for both.

Free Dog: Small, 1 year old, all shots updated.

BMW 735i: Runs great. \$3,000 OBO.

2004 Nissan Xterra: Very good condition. \$16,000 or OBO.

Baby items: Fisher Price swing \$65 OBO. Graco swing \$20. Bassinet \$65 OBO. Walkers \$45, clothing and more.

Wanted: Apartment or home. Two or more bedrooms. Not too far from post. With a little grass for our dogs.

1938 Topolino: Series A, \$4,500 or euro equivalent. Needs some restoration.

2001 Ford Escape: \$8,000 OBO.

Puppy wanted: Under 6 mos old, prefer short hair.

Child bicycles: Harley Davidson children's bicycles, \$50 each.

Tricycles: Two, in good condition. \$15 each.

High chairs: Two, \$30 each.

Portable child bed: Very good

condition. \$50.

Furniture: 3 piece entertainment center, solid wood \$550. Computer desk w/hutch, \$400.

1996 Dodge Stratus: Nice shape. \$1,000 firm.

1988 Fiat: Duna Weekender Wagon. Reliable \$500, OBO.

Dresser: In good shape. \$25

Assorted items: Lawnmower baggers. Two - new, \$5. Outdoor hose reel - new, \$5. Siemens cellphone w/charger. \$5. Loft bed and desk - \$100 for both.

iPod nano 2Gb: \$125 OBO.

Wind GPRS USB Modem: \$25.

Italian Language Kit: \$20, Lonely Planet book, map, language book.

Fans: 2 fans with stands. \$10 for both.

Babysitter needed: August 2007 for 4-year-old twins who speak English, German and Italian.

2003 Vespa ET4 125CC: Garage kept - runs great. \$2,000.

1991 Mercedes 300 CE: 2-door coupe. Runs perfect. \$5,800.

1990 VW Golf GTI: Fun to drive. \$1,000 OBO.

1998 Rover 216 Coupe: 800 Euro, OBO.

Full size bed: \$80. Bed-in-a-bag, \$40.

Queen size bed: \$120. New queen size white sheet set, \$20.

1998 Ford Windstar: Good condition. \$3,000.

1997 Plymouth Breeze: Well-maintained. \$2,500, OBO.

31" TV and Amoire: Sanyo TV with an Ikea Armoire. \$300.

Central Texas College textbooks: Numerous textbooks, prices vary.

Now Showing

Caserma Ederle Theater

Jan. 9	CLOSED	
Jan. 10	Saw III (R)	7 p.m.
Jan. 11	Santa Clause 3 (G)	4 p.m.
	Saw III (R)	7 p.m.
Jan. 12	A Good Year (PG)13	7 p.m.
	The Pursuit of Happyness (PG13)	10 p.m.
Jan. 13	Charlotte's WEb (G)	4 p.m.
	The Pursuit of Happyness (PG13)	7 p.m.
Jan. 14	Charlotte's Web (G)	4 p.m.
	Flushed Away (PG)	7 p.m.
Jan. 15	CLOSED	
Jan. 16	CLOSED	

Camp Darby Theater

Jan. 11	The Holiday (PG13)	6 p.m.
Jan. 12	Borat (R)	6 p.m.
Jan. 13	A Good Year (PG13)	6 p.m.
Jan. 14	Happy Feet (PG)	2 p.m.

Movie Synopsis

A GOOD YEAR - *Russell Crowe, Albert Finney.* London-based investment expert Max Skinner travels to Provence to tend a small vineyard he inherited from his late uncle. When he gets suspended from his job under suspicion of fraud, he settles in to life at the chateau, remembering the time he spent there as a child. Then a determined young California girl arrives claiming to be the illegitimate daughter of the deceased uncle and rightful owner of the vineyard.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB - *Dakota Fanning, Oprah Winfrey.* Fern is one of only two living beings who sees that Wilbur is a special animal as she raises him, the runt of the litter, into a terrific and radiant pig. As Wilbur moves into a new barn, he begins a second profound friendship with the most unlikely of creatures – a spider named Charlotte – and their bond inspires the animals around them to come together as a family. When the word gets out that Wilbur's days are numbered, it seems that only a miracle will save his life.

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS - *Will Smith, Thandie Newton.* Chris Gardner is a bright and talented, but marginally employed salesman. Struggling to make ends meet, Gardner finds himself and his five-year-old son evicted from their San Francisco apartment with nowhere to go. When Gardner lands an internship at a prestigious stock brokerage firm, he and his son endure many hardships, including living in shelters, in pursuit of his dream of a better life for the two of them.

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

Budget travel brings exciting destinations within reach

Story and photos by Diana Bahr
USAG Vicenza Public Affairs

One of the perks of living abroad is gleefully saying to family and friends in the states, "Anything you'd like from Paris? We're going there for the weekend."

Thanks to budget airlines like Ryanair and Easy Jet, weekend jaunts to London, Paris, Munich, Barcelona and other cities can be an inexpensive way to join the jet-set.

But there are pros and cons to flying cheap; budget airlines often use remote airports and you have to take a shuttle bus or train into town. Plus, the airline may only have one flight daily to or from your chosen destination.

However, savvy and determined travelers can use the Internet not only to book inexpensive fares, but to find out how to navigate transportation to and from the airport, parking, hotel rooms, city tours and more.

So how do you manage to find bargains? Check airline's Web sites often as the truly good deals come and go quickly. Sometimes, the later you make your plans, the cheaper the seats. Also, being flexible with your dates, times, and airports to fly out of helps.

One Internet search brought up a site: www.whichbudget.com.

Click on "I want to fly from..." or "I want to fly to..." Unlike Expedia, you don't book tickets directly from their Web site, it simply lists cities and which budget airlines serve them.

For example, my husband and I decided



An ironmonger fashions various tools, candlesticks and other items during a Christmas market in Prague.

to spend a four-day weekend in Dublin. We began checking rates in two months ahead and, by shifting our departure dates a bit; our roundtrip tickets were about 50 euro each.

We flew from Venice Treviso airport – now undergoing much-needed upgrades – into Dublin Airport which is very close to the city and rare for many budget travel airlines.



Above: The oldest Jewish cemetery in Europe is in downtown Prague. Two of the cemetery's most famous tombs are Rabbi Loew (1609) and Mordechai Maisel (1601).



Above: St. Stephen's Green in Dublin is just a short stroll from busy Grafton Street shopping; but miles away in tranquility. Dublin is just one of the many destinations offered by Ryanair, a low-cost way to travel around Europe.

Venice Treviso airport long-term parking is offered in two lots about a five-10 minute walk from the airport. Get there early to ensure you can get a spot as peak travel weekends find the lots filling quickly.

Luggage can be another challenge. The budget airlines are stricter about weight limits and, ever since the bomb threats uncovered at Britain's airports over the past summer, airlines have begun restricting carry-on items and adhering to weight/size limits.

To eliminate hassles and save money, take the time to read the airline's Web site information about carry-on luggage restrictions and checked baggage costs (if any) and restrictions.

Another place to look for helpful flying hints is the airport's Web site, they usually have up-to-date information about going through security checks and other airport issues. Planning ahead can help make the check-in process a bit smoother.

Customer service can also be a bit lacking with the budget airlines. This is one time where being "fashionably late" could cost you your vacation. Getting to the airport early is a must. Most airlines state that you have to be there at least 40 minutes early – and they mean it.

Now that you have your plane tickets, you still need to park at the airport, find a way

into the city and find a decent hotel. Once again, the Internet can be your personal travel agent.

The main airports most of us fly from include: Venice Treviso – www.trevisoairport.it; Venice Marco Polo – www.veniceairport.it; Verona Valerio Catullo Airport – www.aeroportideltgarda.it; and Milan Bergamo – www.orioaeroporto.it.

The websites all list the parking rates and maps showing long-term parking. As in the states, there are often long-term parking lots located close to the airports.

Two long-term lots just a few minutes away from Venice Marco Polo airport are Brusutti and Marco Polo 2002. But be warned that with Marco Polo 2000, you should make a reservation in advance as it's a smaller lot than Brusutti's and fills up quickly. Both lots charge less than half what you would pay parking at the airport and have free shuttle service to the airport.

Note: Do not leave your parking ticket in your vehicle! Put it in your wallet, purse or luggage. Most airports require you to pay for your parking before you get your car. In the case of Milan Bergamo airport, it's a long walk to the parking lot.

Using the Internet to search for decent lodging is mind-boggling. Just a few sites folks in my office have used are: www.itwg.com, www.venere.com, www.placestostay.com, www.hostel.com, and www.hostelworld.com.

While I've used Expedia in the past – mostly for hotels in the states, I've found that Expedia is not always the cheapest way to go in Europe. Many times I've gotten a better rate through the hotel's Web site.

After several bad experiences booking hotels through the Internet, my rule is – if the hotel doesn't have photos of its rooms online, keep searching.

Another way to get a feel for a hotel is through comments made on some travel sites such as www.tripadvisor.com, or www.venere.com.

If you have a large group or are staying in one place for a week or so, it often pays to



An artist paints Santa Claus on a restaurant window in Paris. While Paris is served by low-cost airlines, it's often wise to compare what you save in airfare to how much time it takes to travel to and from the airport served by the budget airlines – which is at least an hour away from the city.

rent an apartment or a suite.

During a recent visit with family members, we were able to rent an apartment in Rome for about half of what three rooms would have cost. One advantage of renting an apartment is you are able to make your own meals if you wish, and you have space to hang out in if the weather is bad, you're tired, etc.

Many of the Web sites listed above for hotels, also list apartments for rent.

Again, the Internet is a valuable tool. And don't forget to ask friends and co-workers about travel tips, hotels, etc.

Regardless of what you pay for travel, safety is always an issue. Don't wear flashy jewelry, use hidden money belts for passports and identification and, while one of us is getting our luggage or tickets, the other person stands guard. If you're riding a crowded bus or subway, be wary of pickpockets.

And remember that force protection is not just for the office – it carries over to vacations, too.

Be aware of your surroundings, and who is watching you while you are sightseeing.

Buon viaggio!!