



# The Outlook

Nov. 14, 2006

U.S. Army Garrisons Vicenza & Livorno

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Roughly 2,000 Soldiers and civilians participated in a four-mile run to celebrate Veteran's Day and the 51st Anniversary of SETAF's presence in Vicenza. The route of the run covered the entire post and took place at 6 a.m. Wednesday. (Photo by Sgt. David Hopkins, SETAF Public Affairs)

## Honoring our Veterans

By Sgt. David Hopkins  
SETAF Public Affairs

The Southern European Task Force and the local community gathered Nov. 8 at Memorial Park to celebrate and remember veterans and their families.

Maj. Gen. Frank G. Helmick, SETAF commander, presented awards to several individuals for their hard work and then honored veterans in a speech.

"We spend today remembering the men and women of our armed forces through the centuries, who have come together to fight for a common cause," said Helmick. "They've defended borders, people and a way of life not only in the United States, but around the world. When others turned away, it was our veterans who were willing to stand up, leave their families behind, and put their boots on the ground."

The veterans in the crowd, both former and current servicemembers, stood and were recognized for their sacrifices over the years,

but they were not the only ones recognized for the duty to country.

Helmick also recognized their families for their sacrifice and support.

"It is not only the servicemember who answers the call to duty," said Helmick. "Our family's service is marked by the unwavering support to their loved ones who are in harms way. It has been said that the hardest job in the Army, or any service, is that of the military spouse. They may not carry a rifle on their shoulder, but they carry the weight of worry – a burden they embrace until their loved one returns home."

Veteran's Day was not the only thing recognized at the ceremony. This year also marks the 51st anniversary of SETAF's presence in Vicenza, Italy.

"Over the years much has changed around the world and right here in Vicenza," said Helmick, "but the strong relationships that developed between our Italian friends and neighbors and the American Soldier is something that continues to endure."



From left to right: Maj. Gen. Frank G. Helmick, SETAF commander, with help from the Vicenza Prefect Piero Mattei, Vicenza Mayor, Enrico Hullweck, and Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Rice, SETAF sergeant major, places a wreath at the base of the Fallen Warrior Memorial Wednesday as part of the SETAF 51st Birthday and Veteran's Day Ceremony. (Photo by Spc. Justin Nieto, SETAF Public Affairs)

## Know the rules of dog ownership



Malynda Beeman and her dog, Boceifus, take a run on the North 40 track. Even though 'Bo' is friendly, Beeman makes sure he's on a leash when they're out in public. (Photo by Diana Bahr, Outlook editor)

Directorate of Emergency Services  
Press Release

Attention all dog lovers! There are many laws within Italy which must be followed in order to ensure community safety.

The Italian Criminal Code states that anyone who owns a dog or animal, has one at large, does not guard it with due caution or places them in the custody of an inept person, shall be punished by a fine from 25 to 258 euros.

The same penalty applies to anyone who, abandons an animal, leaves an animal in a public place or leaves an animal in any way unguarded (even though not loose), which endangers public safety, or places them in the custody of an inept person.

**Dogs must be on a leash and muzzled when inside public areas or outside in crowded areas.**

In cases where a dog is left free (i.e., without a leash or muzzle) and it attacks someone, the owner is responsible for damages caused by the animal. **Also, the law requires owners to have a liability insurance policy for their animals and it makes sense.**

Please follow these simple laws and your dog and community will be happier and safer for all.

## Native American Heritage Month events held on post

Equal Opportunity office  
Press Release

"A Warrior's Tradition: Contributing to Our Nation's Freedom" is the theme for Native American Indian Heritage Month.

In keeping with this tradition, the Caserma Ederle community is invited to observe the many contributions of Native American Indians at the following events:

**Nov. 16:** Story Hour at the Ederle Library will feature Native American Indian culture with books, songs and crafts from 11 a.m.- noon.

**Nov. 16:** A special free showing of the movie, "Wind Talkers", starring Nicholas Cage

will be shown at 9 a.m. in the Ederle Theater.

**Dec. 1: Native American Feast Day** - Come to the South of the Alps Dining Facility starting at noon for a Native American feast.

The guest speaker is Col. Bradley Harper, Vicenza Health Clinic commander.

See a performance by the Morning Star dancers, and stay for special performances by Staff Sgt. Michael Nestell and Cherie Harper, who are Apache and Cherokee/Comanche, respectively.

For details about Native American Indian Heritage month activities, contact Staff Sgt. Haywood Banks at 634-8330.



## Commentary

# Why 'Army Strong?'

By Lt. Col. Wayne Shanks

*(Editor's Note: The Army replaced its slogan of "Army of One" with "Army Strong" campaign Nov. 1 Below is a commentary that reflects one Soldier's opinion about the new slogan)*

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Oct. 31, 2006) – I have to admit when I first heard 'Army Strong' I thought, "That's it?"

But as I've thought about it, Army Strong is much more than two words. It represents the best of the Army, the best of America, the best of each and every Soldier.

I think Army Strong works better if you imply "I am, You are or We are" Army Strong, but what does it mean to be Army Strong?

Army Strong is more than muscles; it's the Soldiers who can endure long patrols constantly alert for hidden dangers, or run faster and further than they ever thought they could.

Army Strong is more than sheer military might (tanks, helicopters, artillery, missiles, etc...); it's the Soldiers who drive, fly or shoot all that hardware.

Army Strong is more than completing tough training; it's parachuting out of an airplane at 800 feet when you're scared to death of heights.

Army Strong is more than being smart; it's having the knowledge and tenacity to develop a way to solve seemingly impossible problems.

Army Strong is more than combat operations that destroy an enemy; it's the Soldiers and leaders who plan and execute it – it's Boots on the Ground.

Army Strong is more than the pungent smell of burnt gunpowder after a firefight; it's the Soldiers whose well aimed fire protected their buddies.

Army Strong is more than intelligence systems, UAVs and GPS; it's the Soldiers who bring that information to the leaders who can use it to stop an insurgent attack.

Army Strong is more than beans, bullets and repair parts; it's the Soldiers who ship, manage, prepare, repair and move all the things that keep the Army rolling along.

Army Strong is more than just doing what's right; it's the Army values embodied by Soldiers who carry out their duties everyday.

Army Strong is more than a "Welcome Home" sign taped to a fence; it's the "daddy, daddy, daddy!" yelled across a tarmac late at night and a long embrace at the end of a deployment.

Army Strong is more than an individual Soldier's strength; it's the teamwork of a well-trained squad executing actions on contact.

In short, Army Strong is far more than two words; it's the underlying moral fiber, the deep-seated emotions and the total determination every Soldier carries.

No one can stop this team – it's Army Strong.

## Meningococcal shot required for students

U.S. Army Health Clinic Vicenza  
Press Release

A new requirement from the European Regional Medical Command is for children 11-18 years of age to receive Menactra, a new vaccine aimed at preventing meningococcal meningitis.

The suspense date to get this accomplished is Dec. 22.

Patients 11-18 years can get their immunization daily, on a walk-in basis, during the following hours: Monday-Wednesday and Fridays from 8 a.m.-noon, and 1-3:30 p.m. Thursdays from 1-3:30 p.m.

The clinic is closed the after noon of Nov. 17, all day Nov. 23 and 24.

Direct questions to U.S. Army Health Clinic Immunization section at 634-6608, or 0444-71-6608 from off post.

## 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, bldg 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.

NOTE: The next CAC is Tuesday, Nov. 21 at 10 a.m. in Club Veneto.

**Issue:** The AAFES Shoppette rents non-new release movies for five day periods (three movies for \$3).

*But if the movie is returned late (after 12 noon on the fifth day) then the late fee is \$2.25 per movie or \$6.75 total.*

*So, three movies that were rented for five days for \$3, are one hour late, now have a \$6.75 late fee.*

*The policy is not posted anywhere in the Shoppette nor do sales associates let customers know when mentioning the "3 for \$3 program" that if they are late, it is actually 3 for \$9.75.*

*To me this is irresponsible and taking unfair advantage of their position as the only movie rental option on base. To have a late fee that is well over double the original rental fee is unfair when there is no ability for market correction.*

**Recommendations:** A reasonable solution would be to either make the late fee equivalent to the rental charge i.e. \$3 for an additional 5 day period or increase the fee based on how long the movie is kept past the due date i.e. the same day but after 12 \$1, two days \$2, three days \$3 etc.

**Response from AAFES:** AAFES has taken a detailed look into this matter and has adjusted the late fee schedule that is in question.

We have now implemented a grace period to return the movies that each employee is now aware of.

In this particular case, we have made adjustments to the software to adjust to the 3 for 3 program and will also do so immediately – with a grace period on the returns so that our valued customers will have additional time on the return.

We will continue to let our customers know about the 12:00 return time but will offer

## Open season for health benefits

Civilian Personnel Advisory Center  
Press Release

The 2006 Federal Employees Health Benefits program open season for U.S. Appropriated Fund employees will be held Nov. 13-Dec. 11.

There are three separate programs that will participate in this year's open season: the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, the Web site is: [www.opm.gov/insure/health](http://www.opm.gov/insure/health); the Federal FSA Program, the Web site is: [www.FSAFEDS.com](http://www.FSAFEDS.com), and the new Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program, the Web site is: [www.opm.gov/insure/dentalvision](http://www.opm.gov/insure/dentalvision).

A new Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) is

available to eligible federal employees, retirees, and their eligible family members on an enrollee-pay-all basis.

This new program allows dental and vision insurance to be purchased on a group basis, which means competitive premiums and no pre-existing condition limitations.

Premiums for enrolled federal employees will be withheld from salary on a pre-tax basis. Employees must be eligible for the FEHB Program in order to be eligible to enroll in FEDVIP.

It does not matter if they are actually enrolled in FEHB-eligibility is the key. Annuitants are eligible to enroll in FEDVIP no matter what their FEHB status is.

Open season for enrollment is Nov. 13-Dec. 11.

## New Community Action Council format strives to share key information with community

USAG Vicenza Public Affairs Office  
Press Release

The Community Action Council is changing venue and changing its focus.

"We want to take the opportunity to get more pertinent information out to the community," said Renee Citron, deputy to the Garrison Commander, USAG Vicenza. "This is a great forum for us to share important information and highlight community events. We want to encourage as many people as possible to attend."

The first new CAC will take place Nov. 21, in Club Veneto from 10-11:30 a.m. The new format will include time for each directorate and key agency chiefs to highlight important information such as events, changes in hours of operations for facilities, changes in policy and more.

"We want to make this a one-stop-shop for key information the community needs to know," said Citron.

Even though the format is changing,

key parts of the CAC will still take place, such as volunteer recognition, addressing specific CAC issues and the open forum. Not all CAC issues submitted will be addressed in the new CAC forum, but those submitting issues will receive personal responses from the agency directly.

Because of this new format, anonymous issues will no longer be accepted. Those submitting issues will need to supply contact information, such as a valid phone number and e-mail address.

If your issue is not addressed during the new CAC forum, you will be able to find responses posted to the USAG Vicenza Web site at [www.usag.vicenza.army.mil](http://www.usag.vicenza.army.mil), where you can also submit an issue or search through past issues.

For any questions concerning the CAC, contact the Public Affairs Office at 634-6363.

a grace period on the return of one hour.

We will post a sign in the Shoppette detailing our late fees to create more awareness with our customers.

**Issue:** Recently I attempted to sign a guest onto Caserma Ederle at approximately 9:50 p.m. The security personnel then informed me that no guests will be signed onto the installation after 10 p.m.

I was under the impression that guests were allowed on until midnight and no one else that I know ever heard of the policy.

When I called the MP desk, the desk sergeant was also unaware of the 10 p.m. curfew, but when the interpreter spoke with the Carabinieri at the gate, the Carabinieri read from his SOP that guests must exit the installation after 10 p.m.

My first issue is the lack of communication between security personnel and the community. If I would have known about the 10 p.m. curfew, I would have been able to make other plans. Instead I had to think of something else to do on a Monday night off post in Vicenza.

Secondly, I feel this policy is very inconsiderate of the personnel who reside on Caserma Ederle.

I understand that having visitors is a privilege and I also understand the force protection reasoning behind the curfew, but the welfare of the Soldiers then becomes affected. At 10 p.m. our guests must exit and we are left with two options: stay alone in the barracks or go with our guests off post and waste money trying to enjoy an evening.

**Recommendations:** In order to fix the issue, security personnel must distribute the information about the policy to the

community and each individual unit.

Also, the policy should be posted at each gate so that every person entering the installation will know what the policy says. In addition, I believe we can push back the time on the curfew by implementing more security at the gates.

My recommendation is to add vehicle searches and search individual that want to enter the installation as a guest for weapons and contraband.

This will also help prevent any incidents that could occur any time of the day by letting the host community know that we are serious about security and have an ultimate goal of heightened security 24/7, not just the late night/early morning hours.

**Response from the Directorate of Emergency Services:** This issue has been addressed to the Garrison Commander and SETAF Commander with approval.

The DES is making the change to the SOP. Guest will be allowed on the installation seven days a week until midnight.

**This change affects only Caserma, Ederle guest, not Villaggio.**

In coordination with the Italian LNO and Carabinieri Commander, all gates will be given vocal approval of this change until the staffing process of the SOP is completed.

**The next CAC meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 21, at 10 a.m. in Club Veneto.**



**Safety Countermeasures**

**Preparing for black ice**

**Command Safety Office**  
Press Release

Those of us who don't park our vehicles in a garage, are now finding ourselves scraping frost off the windshield and windows before leaving for work. Along with falling temperatures that cause frost, we are now seeing the first signs of "black ice" on area roadways.

It's called Black Ice because it blends in with the asphalt. All-too-often we discover the road is covered with ice when we're on it and feel the vehicle begin to slide.

Some ways to prepare for black ice are to take the following steps:

Look for ice on windshield wipers or on side view mirrors, on road signs, tree or fences

along the roadway. If ice is forming on any of these, then it's a good bet it's forming on the road surface as well.

Be aware that bridges/overpasses freeze before roads will. This is because cold air is able to circulate under the bridge/overpass.

Install an outdoor thermometer in your vehicle and listen to the radio or television for local temperature reports before leaving for your destination.

Be extra cautious when driving beside rivers, streams and in areas that receive a lot of shade during the day, especially during sunup and directly after the sun sets. Ice forms quickly.

Your best defense: match your vehicle speed to the road conditions. Drive to Arrive!

**Change to Winter Safety Day event**

The Winter Safety Day, originally scheduled for Nov. 20, has been moved to Nov. 21 and 22. The events will still be held in the Ederle Theatre.

There will now be four sessions, two each day.

The morning sessions are now reserved for Soldiers of the 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team.

Civilians and family members are invited to attend the afternoon sessions, which are held from 1-4 p.m.

**Memorial service honors Darby worker**

**By Staff Sgt. Joyce Costello**  
AFN Livorno

Camp Darby community members, Italian and American alike, gathered at the Camp Darby Post Chapel Oct. 27 for a memorial ceremony for Renzo Matteucci, who passed away on Oct. 21.

Nicknamed "Matteo", he was born in Livorno June 17, 1949 and studied mechanical engineering.

He came to work for the

Directorate of Public Works, first in the Engineering Services Branch as a Mechanical engineer and then in the Contract, Administration and Inspection Branch as an inspector.

Matteucci was actively engaged in many volunteer activities. He loved playing tennis and was on the organizational staff that sponsored tennis contests each year for handicapped people.

He is survived by his wife, daughter and friends.



Renzo Matteucci shown feeding the Camp Darby deer, something he loved to do on a regular basis. (Photo courtesy of the Matteucci family)

**Yard of the Month winners for September**



Congratulations to the Yard of the Month awardee for September, Sgt. Fernando Maura, U.S. Army Dental Clinic - Vicenza. Maura, along with the first and second runners up received cash awards from the AAFES and the Commissary, along with Certificates of Appreciation. Other awardees are:



Second place went to Spc. Sherry Bobbett, B Det., 208th Finance Battalion.



Third place went to Staff Sgt. William Shimp, 14th Transportation Battalion.



Honorable mention to Sgt. David Schendel, 68th Transportation Company.



Honorable mention to Staff Sgt. Ruddy Martinez, 509th Signal Battalion.



Honorable mention to Spc. Peter Burr, A Co, 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry (Airborne).

*(Editor's note: The Yard of the Month is awarded May through September. Congratulations to all our winners, and best of luck to next year's contenders.)*

**The Outlook**

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# The downward spiral of domestic abuse

By Spc. Justin Nieto  
SETAF Public Affairs

November is Domestic Abuse Prevention Month and this is a subject that has, unfortunately, touched many people's lives.

Friends, family and coworkers alike could have been, or still are, victims of domestic abuse; underscoring the importance of dedicating time to address this problem.

Although our community recognizes November as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, it is a lifetime commitment that each one of us must make to end family violence, said Tammy Wilbur-Hoistad, Family Advocacy Program manager.

"Just because violence is not occurring in your home, if it is occurring in your community it is your issue. As a community we can say one of two things," I am okay with persons being victimized in their homes or that I am not okay with it and will ensure that victims have a voice and support in our community," she said.

One woman, who has asked to remain anonymous, works on Caserma Ederle and recalls her story of abuse and what she did to escape the cycle.

"He was a very nice guy when I met him and I had known, or thought I knew, him for about a year and a half before we got married," she said. "The 'slapping around' started about two months after we married."

She said it all began after a party when he, after having too much to drink, mentioned an

ex-boyfriend of hers. "At that point, I mentioned I never talked about his ex-girlfriends.

"At which point, he got out of the car, pulled me out of the car, and then I tried to run away," she continued.

"He dragged me on the ground by my hair back to the car. He then threw me on the hood of the car and started choking me."

All of this happened in front of her 10-year-old daughter, who was sitting in the backseat.

"Of course, he apologized that night and said it would never happen again," she said. "But it did...each time getting a little worse."

The abuse spiraled out of control, making her and her children's life increasingly difficult and diminishing her self esteem.

"One time, he went out to the store and was gone a long time, so I tried calling him and another woman

answered," she said. "Well, I asked him to just bring my car back and he did."

"Then he called the woman, right in front of me, and asked her to come pick him up," she continued. "I got a little bit mad, of course,

and just stood there looking at him.

"He raised his arm like he was going to hit me and I said the wrong thing. I said, 'Take your best shot,'" she said. "He then backhanded me across the room, breaking my nose.

"My self esteem had been going down the tubes slowly and I was walking on eggshells around him, trying not to anger him," she said. "A year into our marriage, he told me he never loved me and got married because he thought I would take care of him."

She eventually grew tired of the abuse and escaped with her daughter one night, and later divorced him after a number of years.

"It took my about 10 years before I could start dating again," she said.

"Every time a man would raise his hand, I would flinch. That's how bad it was.

"I had called hotlines, I did a lot of crying over the phone and such," she said. "When I was pregnant with my daughter, my doctor could just tell. He said to not even think about him, just take care of your daughter."

And that is what she did. And she advises anyone else caught in this type of relationship to do the same.

"Get away and get help now. I know it's tough and they say they won't do it again and they're sorry," she said. "But it only gets worse. Talk to your friends and get help."

"I expect everyone – every day – to stand up to prevent domestic abuse, said Maj. Gen. Frank G. Helmick, in his Domestic Violence Prevention Month proclamation, which he signed during a Silent Witness event Nov. 1

"Within relationships, prevention is based on love, respect and trust. Within the Army community, prevention starts with intensive public awareness, coordinated community education, and effective military and civilian partnerships. As individuals, Soldier or family member, prevention starts with modeling correct behavior, demonstrating leadership support, and using the system to assure protection of victims and hold offenders accountable. Any domestic abuse should be reported," he finished.

For people caught in abusive relationships, there is help out there. The Family Advocacy Program can be reached at 634-7314, 0444-71-7314 or, one can call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233.

This is just one of the many cases of abuse out there; one too many. And while this month may be dedicated to prevention of domestic abuse, it is really a 24/7 responsibility for the entire community.

## Camp Darby community recognized for role in devastating 1966 flood

Story and photo

By Staff Sgt. Joyce Costello  
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

Santa Croce Sull' Arno celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the Florence-Pisa flood on Nov. 4 with a ceremony.

The *Centro Intercomunale di Protezione Civile Val D' Arno Superiore* and the *Provincial Di Pisa* recognized Camp Darby with a plaque for being the first group of military personal who arrived bringing boats and other equipment to help the residents.

The entire town was under water and important museums and libraries were lost and/or suffered damage. Even after 40 years, they are still trying to clean and restore historic books that were damaged.

"That event clearly demonstrated joint efforts between the two communities in the event of a tragedy," said Antonio Vicenta, Deputy Garrison commander, who accepted the plaque on behalf of the community. "Remembering our history will hopefully educate new generations how joint efforts really do pay off."

Currently, Camp Darby's campground area is identified as one of the four areas in Pisa that the Authorities of Pisa identified as instrumental for the safety of the people, land, and of the historical, artistic and cultural patrimony of Pisa. This is the first civil protection plan that acknowledges the various risks of natural disaster in the area and describes the procedures for first-aid in case of an emergency.

### Notes from the Parent, Teacher and Student Association

Vicenza PTSA  
Press Release

The Vicenza Parent, Teacher and Student Association will have a table set up Thursday and Friday at the school during parent teacher conferences so that parents can join the PTSA.

Cost of membership is \$5 per person.

The PTSA uses money raised to purchase items for Vicenza Elementary, Middle and High Schools, and we are looking for more parent members now that we have 100 percent of the teaching staff.

We are also asking VHS students to start bringing in their Box Tops for Education coupons. There is a collection jar in the VHS main office.

This is free money that we use for all students. Our first batch sent in Oct. 31 earned us \$1200. We need the support of the high school to make this another successful money maker for the school.

If there is any organization (National Honor Society, JROTC, Student Council, etc.) that is looking for community service jobs, the PTSA has work that needs to be done.

## Livorno celebrates Red Ribbon week

Story and photo

By Staff Sgt. Joyce Costello  
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

An unusual site greeted Camp Darby commuters entering the front gate.

"I choose to dress as a clown to get their attention during Red Ribbon week and to get the community out of its day-to-day feeling," said Sgt. Thomas Garrard, Camp Darby Military Policy Drug Abuse Resistance Education officer.

"The youth are not the only ones who need to be aware – the community needs to be aware – because drugs are still out there and we all need to continue our awareness and prevention," he said as he handed out a ribbon to a community member driving on post Oct. 30-Nov. 3.

Red Ribbon Week is a celebration of being drug free and fighting drug traffickers through out the world and to honor the drug agents who died fighting the traffickers.

It was created in 1985 after Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, assigned to the Drug Enforcement Agency, was assigned to go after and stop a large drug

cartel that was using minors for their trafficking.

Camarena was kidnapped in front of his family, brutally tortured and murdered by drug traffickers in Mexico.

This tragic event produced an immediate outpouring of grief, but over time has generated a sense of hope across America. In honor of Camarena's memory and his battle against illegal drugs, friends and neighbors began to wear red badges of satin. Parents, sick of the destruction of alcohol and other drugs, had begun forming coalitions. These coalitions also adopted the symbol of Camarena's memory, the red ribbon.

That hope is being kept alive through the hard work of thousands of Americans – particularly young people – who participate in Red Ribbon events. This tradition is stronger than ever today, as an increasing number of Americans are saying "yes" to a drug-free life.

Students, parents and Community members can learn more about drug abuse resistance education by logging on to [www.dare.com](http://www.dare.com) or speaking with the local D.A.R.E officer at 633-7575.



Sgt. Thomas Garrard, Camp Darby Military Policy D.A.R.E. officer, dressed as a clown to attract attention during Red Ribbon week as he handed out red ribbons people entering the garrison.



# Military lifestyle has obstacles, benefits when it comes to adopting

Story and photos  
 By Sgt. David Hopkins  
 SETAF Public Affairs Office

Military families, especially those serving overseas, who are considering adoption are faced with obstacles civilians don't have, but the family benefits are worth the extra effort.

Issues like cost, dealing with adoption agencies, large amounts of paperwork and time commitments can discourage potential families from pursuing adoption. The military, support groups and internet services can help make the process run more smoothly.

"There's a lot of help out there for families," said Tom Perkins, an engineer with the Army Corps of Engineers and father of two adopted girls from China. "In the end,

when you have your children, all the hard work and time you put into it makes it all worth while. It changes your life."

According to the National Adoption Day organization, there are more than half a million children in foster care in the U.S. and more than 100,000 of those are waiting for adoption.

These numbers are only a fraction of the children waiting for adoption around the world and many military families want to adopt some of these children.

"My wife and I have been talking about adopting internationally for about a year," said Pfc. Ian Eads, a Soldier with 2d Brigade, 503d Infantry (Airborne). "We try to make as many contacts as possible to learn as much as we can about the process. It can all be very difficult."

## Challenges and things to consider

There are many factors for potential adopting families to consider when they start the adoption process.

"When folks come to my office about adopting, I refer them to the Internet for identifying what it is they want and where they can get it," said Mark Christensen, chief, client services, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, and father of a 15-month-old girl from Guatemala. "There are hundreds of Internet sites devoted to domestic and international adoption."

Internet sites will give advice and the procedures for adopting through different agencies and in different countries. For instance, China has mostly



A mother and daughter color together at a gathering of adoptive families who are celebrating National Adoption Month. Several families with adopted children talked, played and had dinner together to honor their families.



A group of children play together at the Family Readiness Center Nov. 3, at a potluck dinner. All were families with adopted children, who gathered to discuss and celebrate their families during National Adoption Month.

## Make a square for AAFES Patriot Quilt



The first event of the 2006 Patriot Family Campaign is called the "Patriotic Quilt." A 'quilt' square will be created by each exchange location telling 'their individual story'. The Vicenza military community quilt square is on display in the Post Exchange food court. It will be shipped to AAFES Headquarters where it will be sewn together with all the others. The "Patriotic Quilt" will travel through the regions and AAFES deployed sites.....making stops at designated locations. The schedule ends during the 2006 Holiday Season at a selected Operation Enduring or Iraqi Freedom location. (Photo by Spc. Justin Nieto, SETAF Public Affairs)

girls. In Russia, you can get boys and girls. Some countries don't let you screen the referral - you get what they give you - and others let you pick and choose, said Christensen.

The frequency in which military families are required to move can often become an obstacle that adoption agencies are reluctant work through. Because of the length of time required to adopt, the potential parents may have to move before the process is complete.

"My advice is that you start the adoption paperwork when you first get to your duty station," said Ellen Bayless, mother of two-year-old Mackenzie, who she adopted from China. "If you are going to be stable for a while it makes the process easier and agencies are more likely to work with you."

Before a family can proceed with adoption, whether they are seeking to adopt in the U.S. or overseas, they must have a home study performed by a certified social worker.

"The home study process is an important step, because it is your first outside look at your family's functionality," said Christensen. "A certified social worker is supposed to screen out folks who may be unsuitable for adoption, something some folks do not want to hear."

Cost is another issue many military families are not always aware of before beginning the adoption process.

"The cost can be staggering," said Perkins. "It can discourage a lot of people. China is about the cheapest place to adopt internationally, but it still runs about \$20,000 for everything."

The military has a policy in effect to help alleviate the cost of adoption for active duty military families.

Expenses up to \$2,000 for the adoption of a single child and up to \$5,000 per family per year will be reimbursed by the military. Fees

that can be reimbursed include agency fees, legal fees, placement fees and medical expenses. For information contact your commanding officer.

Completing the entire process can take up to a year or more for most international adoptions, but there are benefits to adopting overseas.

"In the U.S. if you adopt a child and the birth mom or dad change their mind later, you lose the child," said Christensen. "We decided we could and would not risk that, and did an international adoption. If we had done a domestic adoption, we'd spend the next 17 years in fear of that knock on the door."

Staying organized is the most important part in assuring success in the adoption process.

"Organization is the key," said Christensen. "You really have to make sure you have everything and check all the blocks. If everything isn't done correctly it could fall through."

## Adoption etiquette

People should know how to approach an adoptive family about their children if interested in asking questions about adoption.

Using the wrong approach or language can be offensive, according to the National Adoption Day organization Web site.

"There are folks here, and everywhere, who think it's entirely appropriate to come up to me or my wife in public and comment on our daughter's skin color or that she's adopted," said Christensen. "It's really none of their business of course, but if someone wants to say something it is more polite to comment on the beautiful children, and let the parent bring up whether there was an adoption or not."



# Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

## Vicenza events

In Vicenza the Christmas chalets in *Gardini Salvi* will be set up Dec. 1-24, opening hours will be listed at a later date.

Also in downtown Vicenza, in the main squares, the market will take place Dec. 16-17 and Dec 22-24;

The Christmas chalets in Bassano open Nov. 25.

## Bassano Christmas market

Set up in two of the main squares, *Piazza Garibaldi* and *Piazzotto Montevicchio*, you will find the chalets open everyday from 10:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m., but closed Monday mornings.

In the afternoons of the weekend, there is a 'Lilliput' train for the young and old alike to ride, which leaves the main square of *Piazza Liberta'* to go around the main streets.

The market closes on Dec. 24. While in Bassano, don't forget to visit the *Ponte degli Alpini*, built over the River Brenta.

Originally built in the late twelfth century, the present structure was designed by Palladio in 1568, and built of wood in order to make the bridge as flexible as possible.

At the end of the bridge there is what was once the grappa distillery 'Nardini' founded in 1779. These days the distilling process takes place elsewhere, but there's still the original shop and bar where you can sample before you select your bottle. The shop is open Tuesday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

## South Tyrol Christmas markets

South Tyrol's, *Mercatini di Natale*, Christmas markets, officially open Dec. 1. They are:

Bolzano: Dec. 1-23 in *Piazza Walther*. Open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

Merano: From Dec. 1-30 in *Passeggiata Lungo Passirio*. Open Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m., weekends, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

Bressanone: Dec. 1-31 in *Piazza Duomo*. Open Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Sunday 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

Brunico: Dec. 1-31 in *Via*

*Basitioni* and *Piazza Municipio*.

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

Vipiteno: Dec. 1-31 in *Piazza Citta'*. Open Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-7 p.m., weekends, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

In Trentino, many locations host markets every year:

In Trento, the ancient city walls frame the dozens of wooden huts from Nov. 25-Dec. 24, open every day, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

In Arco: Nov. 17-Dec. 23, the historic center turns into a stage for stands with arts and crafts, and for jugglers and singers.

This market is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

In Levico, the Christmas market with 40 chalets, is open Nov. 26-Dec. 24 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., on Dec. 26, 29, 30 and 31, they're open from 2-7 p.m.

In the medieval town of Caldonazzo, the market is open Dec. 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16, and 17 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

## Florence marathon

The Florence marathon, set for Nov. 26, is one of the top 20 international marathons which stages men's and women's events, as well as a non-competitive 10k Fun Run and a special mini-run for children, in front of a supportive crowd.

Half the course winds through the historical center, starting at *Piazzale Michelangelo* going over and past places like the *Ponte Vecchio*, the *Cascine Monument* and the National Park, the marathon ends at *Piazza Santa Croce*.

Runners come from all over the world to compete, and last year there were more than 6,000 foreign professional runners in the marathon.

The marathon starts at 9 a.m. in Piazza Michelangelo. Information and enrollment in English from [www.firenzemarathon.it](http://www.firenzemarathon.it)

## Padova area markets

Padova's monthly market in *Prato della Valle*, features 160 vendors of oriental items and antique furniture.

It takes place Nov. 19 from 9 a.m.

to sundown.

Camisano's Sunday market is Nov. 19 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.;

Dec. 3, in *Villa Roberti*, in the town of *Brugine* in the province of Padova, more than 300 vendors will be selling antique furniture; books, glass, porcelain, paintings and items for the home.

The villa is open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. with an entrance fee of 2 euro.

## Winnie the Pooh

The musical 'A Special Day with Winnie the Pooh,' and of course with his friends, will be held in Milan at the Mazda Palace Nov. 23-26.

The show, produced by Feld Entertainment-Disney Live with David Loud as the musical director, will be in Italian.

Tickets cost 18-35 euro and may be purchased online at [www.vivaticket.it](http://www.vivaticket.it).

## Christmas villages

Christmas may be more than a month away, but as far as two towns in the Verona area are concerned, it's time to start thinking about this most popular of all feasts.

In fact, the towns of Bussolengo and Ca di David are organizing the biggest Christmas fairs in the north of Italy, each town will create a fairy land of decorations, fairy lights, candles, gifts, and cribs to enchant young and old alike.

Each town offers a veritable 'Christmas village' filled with 'houses' entirely dedicated to one of the various categories.

Visitors can take the opportunity to stock up on handcrafted decorations and enjoy watching able artisans at work on their pieces.

You can visit the florist's house and learn how to make eye-catching table centerpieces and festive garlands using dried and artificial flowers.

Or you can walk around an exhibition of cribs that draws on the great Neapolitan, Tuscan, and Sicilian traditions in this centuries-old specialty.

Arts and crafts courses are also offered in some of the 'villages.'

The largest village is in the town of Bussolengo and its doors are open now for the holiday season from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

On Mondays it's open from 3-7:30 p.m. Bussolengo is 64 km northwest of Vicenza. Entrance is free.

# Now Showing

## Caserna Ederle Theater

Nov. 14	CLOSED	
Nov. 15	Idlewild (R)	7 p.m.
Nov. 16	The Wicker Man (PG13)	7 p.m.
Nov. 17	Flags of Our Fathers (R)	7 p.m.
	Hollywoodland (R)	10 p.m.
Nov. 18	The Last Kiss (R)	4 p.m.
	Flags of Our Fathers (R)	7p.m.
Nov. 19	Crank (R)	4 p.m.
	The Last Kiss (R)	7 p.m.
Nov. 20	CLOSED	
Nov. 21	CLOSED	

## Camp Darby Theater

Nov. 16	Beerfest (R)	6 p.m.
Nov. 17	The Departed (R)	6 p.m.
Nov. 18	The Wicker Man (PG13)	6 p.m.
Nov. 19	Monster House (PG)	2 p.m.

## Movie Synopsis

**THE DEPARTED** - *Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon*. Two men from opposite sides of the law are undercover within the Boston State Police department and the Irish mafia, but violence and bloodshed boil when discoveries are made, and the moles are dispatched to find out their enemy's identities.

**IDLEWILD** - *Andre Benjamin, Antwan Patton*. Set against the backdrop of a 1930s southern speakeasy, Percival, a shy piano player, and Rooster, the club's showy lead performer and manager, struggle to keep their dreams alive.

**THE WICKER MAN** - *Nicolas Cage, Ellen Burstyn*. Police officer Edward Malus stops a station wagon to return a little girl's lost doll. Moments later, a runaway truck slams into the station wagon, igniting it into a fiery wreck with the mother and child trapped inside. Edwards fails to save them before the car explodes—and spends months of his life choking down pills to get the image of their faces out of his head. But he is about to get a second chance.

**FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS** - *Ryan Phillippe, Adam Beach*. February 1945. Even as victory in Europe was finally within reach, the war in the Pacific raged on. One of the most crucial and bloodiest battles of the war was the struggle for the island of Iwo Jima, which culminated with what would become one of the most iconic images in history: five Marines and a Navy corpsman raising the American flag on Mount Suribachi. The inspiring photo capturing that moment became a symbol of victory to a nation that had grown weary of war and made instant heroes of the six American soldiers at the base of the flag, some of whom would die soon after, never knowing that they had been immortalized.

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. These ads will appear in *The Outlook* one week later.

**The Outlook and Directorate of MWR are not responsible for any errors in the advertisement, so it's up to the seller to ensure the correct price, e-mail, etc. is listed.**

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 at the Web site [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).

**Propane Tank:** Looking for US BBQ propane tank.

**Fitness Quest Eclipse 1000:** Elliptical exercise machine 12 programs, adjustable levels. \$250.

**Color TV:** Mitsubishi 29in color TV with multifunction remote. \$25

**Foose Ball table:** 3/4 size. Good action and well built.

**Motorcycle Trailer:** New, European Spec, \$400 firm.

**1993 Renault Twingo:** European specs. \$1200, OBO.

**1988 BMW 520i:** 1988 Black with a medium grey leather interior. \$2,100.

**Antique car:** 1958 Metropolitan Nash. White and yellow in perfect condition, \$7500.

**Solid wood furniture:** Pine Chest and two night stands or end tables. \$100 for all.

**JVC Home Theater System:** Five speakers dvd/cd player, remote control. \$300.

**2000 Suzuki GSX-R 600:** Yellow and Black, with add-ons, \$3000 OBO

**Suzuki sj 410:** 1986, 4wd, US specs. \$3000, OBO

**Volvo 850 stationwagon:** 1995 loaded, perfect condition. \$2700.





**A full day of sports and fun activities at Villaggio**

Right: A young boy kicks the ball during the Soccer Shoot-Out. More than 110 children ages 4 to 15 participated in this game. The contest was one of the several activities scheduled for the different age groups during National Kids Day. SKIESUnlimited, Child and Youth Services Sports and Fitness coordinated all the events, which included a Soccer Shoot-Out, Punt, Pass, and Kick Contest and the Soccer Jamboree.



A member of the Blue Lightning Team throws the ball as the goalie during the game played against the Bionicals Team. These two teams were some of the 19 teams, which participated in the event to conclude the season.



# Kids Day

Story and photos by Laura Kreider  
Outlook Staff



Above: Brigitte Johnson, volunteer, cuts some cake to offer to the soccer team members after the games at Villaggio. Left: Taryn Rooms, left, and Marilyn Hernandez, center, both 4, run toward the goal, while Diego Luna, 4, tries to stop them during the Soccer Jamboree held at Villaggio Nov. 4. Rooms and Hernandez played for the Purple Dragons Team coached by Terrilee Davis and Brandon Thomas, while Luna played with the Fire Ants Team coached by Mario Luna and Sean Gallagher.

About 260 youth accompanied by their parents participated in National Kids Day held at Villaggio Nov. 4.

"The Day for Kids Games was a great way to cap the soccer season," said Chris Wolff, SKIESUnlimited Specialist, who coordinated the event along with members of Child and Youth Services Sports and Fitness, and Youth Services. "It was a beautiful day and with so many children out there you couldn't help but have a good time," he added.

The events scheduled for the day included a Soccer Shoot-Out, Punt, Pass, and Kick Contest, and SKIESUnlimited Break Dance and Capoeira demonstrations.

Also, a crowd of teams participated in the Soccer Jamboree, which was in conjunction with the Kids Games.

Nineteen soccer teams participated in the event, which ended the season for the soccer categories of Bambinos, (4-5 years) Peewees (6-7 years) and Minors (8-9 years).

More than 100 youth ages 4 to 15 participated in the Soccer Shoot-Out and about 10 from age 8 to 15 took part in the Punt, Pass, and Kick Contest.

At the end of the games, children received some prizes and after the soccer activities, the teams were awarded with medals.



Left: Archie Johnson, USAG Vicenza CYS Sports and Fitness Director, prepares the net for the Soccer Shoot Out held at Villaggio Nov. 4 while a young girl looks on.

## Vicenza Jr. Youth Sports Soccer Team enters IMA-EURO Junior Soccer Championship 2006

"The Girls Team", Vicenza Jr. Youth Sports Soccer Team, participated in the IMA-EURO Child Youth Service Sports & Fitness Junior Soccer Championship 2006 held in Camp Darby Nov. 10-12. The team competed in the USAG Jr. Soccer Tournament in Aviano, Oct. 28-29, won four games and placed first in the tournament advancing to the IMA-E Championship.



Left: The winners of the Pass, Punt and Kick competition proudly display their awards and certificates. "All of the youth that received a medal or trophy were happy and wore their medals like proud star athletes of the future," said Archie Johnson, USAG Vicenza CYS Sports and Fitness Director. "We hope that this and future sports activities will be of lasting benefit to the youth in many years to come." (Photo courtesy of Archie Johnson)