



Operation Junction City: Celebrating 40 years of history



Paratroopers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade make a combat jump during Operation Junction City in Vietnam Feb. 22, 1967. No enemy contact was made and only 11 Soldiers were slightly injured. See story on page 3. (Photo by Bob Cole, courtesy of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association archives)

Combat lifesaver course to become mandatory for Italian Soldiers

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

Italian Soldiers will soon be required to take the Combat Lifesaver course before a deployment and they are working with SETAF to plan and fulfill this requirement.

After Italian officials saw the Combat Lifesaver course at the Battlefield Injury Conference in Padova, they decided to make it a requirement for all their deploying soldiers.

Before the course can become a requirement however, there is a lot of work that must be done.

"We are going to have to train a lot of people to be trainers," said Max Scudeler, a CLS trainer with the U.S. Army Health Clinic

Vicenza. "Roy [Visona', fellow trainer and worker at the health clinic] and I have our primary jobs here in Vicenza, and we don't have the time to do all the training ourselves."

Scudeler and Visona' have been providing CLS training to Italians for two years. The requirement will ensure they will provide even more training in the future.

"We have trained about 11 units and more than 5,550 soldiers already and we will train a lot more in the future when it becomes a requirement," said Scudeler.

The entire course takes four days, with a mix of lecture and hands-on training. This includes learning how to treat and immobilize different types of fractures, give IVs, analyze scenarios and determine appropriate

treatment and then practice, practice, and more practice.

"It's important for these guys to learn this because, when things go bad in battle, they are the first ones on the scene before medevac arrives," said Scudeler.

For the scenario training the instructors dress up volunteers applying makeup and fake blood to make the wounds look real.

"You want to make the training as realistic as possible," said Scudeler as he was putting fake blood on one of the casualties of the 4th Regiment Alpini Paracadutisti. "So they will get a real feel for what it will be like in battle."

The trainers use several mock casualties so the group being trained learns how to do triage, determine who to treat first, and go to work treating the different types of injuries.

On this day it was members of the 4th Regiment Alpini Paracadutisti, an Italian special forces unit, who were being trained. Scudeler selected three soldiers to be casualties and pulled out his moulage box. By placing a plastic stub on one soldier's elbow, he was turned into an amputee. Another was made into a gunshot victim and the third was made up to look like he had a compound fracture of the leg.

The "wounded" Soldiers moaned and screamed in agony as part of the platoon ran to them in a tactical formation, securing the area.

Other members of the platoon instantly broke into three different teams and went to



Max Scudeler, Combat Lifesaver instructor from the U.S. Army Health Clinic Vicenza, prepares a Soldier of the 4th Regiment Alpini Paracadutisti to be a mock casualty for the scenario portion of the training on Feb. 14 in Bolzano.



One of the medical teams from the 4th Regiment Alpini Paracadutisti work on a casualty during the Combat Lifesaver certification course Feb. 14 in Bolzano, Italy. The mock casualty is one of three who were given different wounds for the training. Members of the platoon had to evaluate the injuries, treat them and evacuate them from the site.

work on the casualties.

The teams evaluated the casualties to determine what their wounds were and then treated the wounds as a team so they could evacuate them quickly.

The platoon commander crouched in the middle of the scene, shouting out directions.

"The exercise went well," said Visona', CLS trainer. "The biggest improvement I saw from earlier drills is that they came together as a team."

"We are often in dangerous places like Afghanistan or Iraq and we need the basic CLS skills and need to know how to work as a team," said 2nd Lt. Feliciano, platoon commander, 4th Regiment Alpini Paracadutisti. "This course gives individual training and team training."

The trainers also feel good about the training they provide.

"It feels great to contribute to both the American and Italian armies," said Visona'. "The Americans learn from the Italians and the Italians learn from the Americans. I'm happy to be in the mix."

Keeping children safe top concern for school transportation

**Vicenza Unit Schools
Student Transportation Office**
Special to the Outlook

Supervision is a must for students younger than 10 years of age when loading or unloading school buses.

Responsibilities for maintaining safe and secure school bus transportation is a joint responsibility involving the Department of Defense Dependent Schools, military communities, students and their families.

Parents of students under the age of 10 years old are required to be physically present at the bus stop during the morning and afternoon runs.

Suspension or loss or riding privileges could result in noncompliance with DoDDS directives.

These responsibilities are particularly important when they pertain to children under 10 years old.

Students in this category have been issued Yellow bus passes to identify them to our drivers and security guides as requiring special attention.

The Vicenza Student Transportation office has concerns and wants to assist parents in arriving at an appropriate solution for complying with this policy.

Here are some options available if you are unable to escort your child to (and remain with while bus arrives and loads) and from the bus stop.

◆ If you have a neighbor who normally escorts his or her children, perhaps you could take turns escorting each other's children.

This requires the parent to send an e-mail or stop by the Transportation Office so we can make an authorization card with names of persons authorized to pickup your children from the bus stop.

◆ If your child has an older (10 years old and older) sibling, parents may designate this sibling as the individual responsible to escort the younger sibling.

Parents and sponsors who choose to place the responsibility on an older sibling, must ensure this child knows he or she must wait by the door after disembarking for their younger sibling.

Please remember that if a parent, authorized adult, or older sibling isn't at the bus stop to pickup the child, the only alternative is to return your child to the Student Transportation office as indicated in the Vicenza Policy Memorandum 06-13, Standards of Conduct for Students Riding DoDDS School Buses.

The Student Transportation office must insist any child requiring adult supervision be released to the respective adult, authorized person or older sibling at the door of the bus.

To do otherwise leaves the possibility of the child straying into unsafe territory and risking serious harm. As in the scholastic arena, parents are the most advocates for student success and safety.

The Student Transportation office, contractors, drivers and safety guides take their responsibilities very seriously. They solicit your assistance and support in this endeavor to keep student riders safe.

Basics of school bus safety

Going to the bus stop

1. Be at your stop five minutes before bus arrives.
2. Walk to bus stop using sidewalks and crosswalks.
3. Stay three feet away from the curb.
4. Never walk in front or behind the bus.

Behavior at the Bus Stop

1. Stay three giant steps away from the curb and wait for the bus to arrive.
2. Don't push, shove or bully other students.
3. The bus driver will not stop until the stop is safe.
4. Elementary children enter bus first then high school.

Behavior on the bus

1. Follow the "10 School Bus Safety Rules" in your handbook.
2. Show bus pass to the bus driver.
3. Listen to the security guide and bus driver.
4. Sit down and fasten your seat belt.

Departing the bus

1. Gather all of your belongings.
2. Be careful going down the stairs (use handrails).
3. Stay three giant steps away from the bus.
4. **Never walk in front of or behind the bus.**
5. Let the bus leave the stop before crossing the street.

Award ceremony recognizes hard work of Soldiers, civilians

SETAF Public Affairs
News Release

The SETAF Quarterly Awards ceremony was held Wednesday in the post theater to recognize the contributions of Soldiers and civilian workers.

The awardees were:

Sergeant Morales Club induction
Staff Sgt. Dion West

Superior Civilian Service award
Eberhard Linder

Commander's Award for Civilian Service
Massimo Scudeler and Roy Visona'

Sharp Focus 2007 Awards

Meritorious Service Medal
Lt. Col. Craig Bell, Lt. Col. Mark Stammer, and Col. Gary Potts.

Army Commendation Medal

Maj. Shane Barna, Maj. Brian Beckno, Maj. Ryan Dillon, Maj. Patrick Downs, Maj. Michael Fleming, Lt. Col. Edwin Hernandez, Maj. William Jacobs, Lt. Col. Todd Johnson, Staff Sgt. Paul Makwakaka, Staff Sgt. Badley Polensky, Maj. James Pugh, Maj. Travis Rooms, Lt. Col. Bruce Sones, Lt. Col. Carl Tucker, Sgt. 1st Class Bill Vetten and Maj. Christopher Whittaker.

Army Commendation Medal

Sgt. 1st Class Maurice Allen, Capt. Kimberly Barnard, 1st Lt. Joshua Boone, Sgt. Tamara Crawford, Capt. Scott Porter, Spc. Candice Graham, Sgt. Richard Holm,

Sgt. David Hopkins, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Johnson, Pfc. Conchetta McCregg, Sgt. 1st Class Evelyn Montealegre, Sgt. Maj. Amaury Ochart, Sgt. Chae Oh, Spc. Grecia Ramos, Sgt. 1st Class Andres Rodriguez, Master Sgt. Betty Ruffin, 2nd Lt. Lianna Scharff, Sgt. 1st Class Irving Sosa and Capt. Joel Springer.

35 Years of Service
Carmelina Cazzola, Guiseppe Civarelli and Maria C. Rappa.

30 Years of Service
Laura Sartori

Ranger Recognition
Spc. Aron Hajar, Sgt. Robert Lemon, Staff Sgt. Leonard Porter, Staff Sgt. Michael Walsh and 1st Lt. Joseph Wells.

Recreation Program award
Ricky Jackson, Ruben Young

Auto Skills Center award
Charlie DeCelle

Scroll of Appreciation
App. Sc. Paolo Bedin, Jennifer Cruz, Leslie Gunderson, Pvt. Jeremy Reigal, Maria Sims and Anna Zanini.

Certificate of Appreciation
Roberta Barbato, Sgt. Byron Begay, Cpl. Jimmy Chong, Jan Comstock, Warrant Officer Kenneth Ewan, George Hanby, Roy Hunnewell, Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Jordan, Staff Sgt. Shalonda Knight, Sgt. Cesar Medrano and Spc. Elisabeth Pieragostini.

Final dates for NSPS training

Employees who haven't received their appropriate National Security Personnel System training should take action. Training dates are coming to a close.

Employee Training

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

In Vicenza, call David Hamilton, CPAC director, at 634-7537 if you need to make arrangements for training.

Supervisor Training

Supervisor training is a two-day class and takes place in Vicenza March 1-2.

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

Should I stay or should I go? *Get facts first*

Army Family Team Building
Special to the Outlook

With deployment looming many families are contemplating the question, "should I stay or should I go home?"

Before making that decision there are many issues to consider. Here are a few questions to research when making a "pros. con" list:

- ◆ What resources are available in the community where I would be?
- ◆ Who is included in my emotional support system?
- ◆ How will I get information about things going on downrange?
- ◆ I have children, what support is available for them?
- ◆ What will I do to keep busy while my spouse is gone?
- ◆ What are the implications to pay, housing, command sponsorship, etc., if I leave Italy?

Here are some pros and cons for your

list to help you make an informed choice:

◆ Resources available in the military community include: Unit Family Readiness Group, Army Community Services, other spouses, rear detachment commander, religious services, Translator Interpreter Program Services.

◆ Emotional Support Possibilities: Family, friends, other military spouses with experience surviving and thriving during deployment, other military spouses with deployed Soldiers, a mentor, military chaplains and family life consultants.

◆ Information flow: FRG, unit rear detachment, virtual FRG – *contact your spouse' unit commander or FRG leader to find out how you might get unit information if you are not in the local area.*

◆ If you have children: Child and Youth Services and Department of Defense Dependent Schools staff are experienced with deployment issues. Family Advocacy Program and friends who have a deployed

parent are also sources of support.

◆ Find a job or volunteer. Start your search with the Employment Readiness, Volunteer Coordinator or the Red Cross. Discover Europe with ITR or Outdoor Recreation.

◆ Most importantly, if you are considering moving back to the states during the deployment, check with your spouse's chain of command. The decision may carry implications you are unaware of. Start by asking if the move is considered an 'early return of dependents' and what does that encompass?

While the question "Should I stay or should I go?" is ultimately a personal decision, you can make the best possible decision for your family by basing it on as many facts as you can.

For details on military and civilian community resources, or to submit an "Ask AFTB" question, contact Vicenza AFTB at vicenza.aftb@setaf.army.mil or 634-8526/7500.

Brigade honored for 2003 Iraqi assault



Lt. Col. William Ostlund, 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry (Airborne) commander, affixes a streamer to the battalion colors during a ceremony conducted Feb. 14 Caserma Ederle's North 40. The 2-503d Inf (Abn) received a Meritorious Unit Commendation for its combat parachute assault and subsequent participation in Operation Northern Delay in Iraq from March to November 2003. (Photo by Sgt. Brandon Aird, 173d ABCT Public Affairs)

Co A, 38th PSB inactivates



Capt. Gretchen Gardner (left) Co A, 38th Personnel Services Battalion commander, cases the unit colors with help from detachment sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Wells, during the inactivation ceremony Thursday in the post gym. As the Army undergoes transformation, it was determined that personnel services battalions were no longer needed, so we were inactivated, said Gardner. "It really comes down to cutting out the middleman," she said. "All personnel matters will be handled in-house by S-1 and human resource offices," said Gardner. "The Soldiers from this unit will go to brigade, the garrison and other places as needed. It's been an awesome, but short-lived command and I'm glad I had the opportunity to work with these fine Soldiers." (Photo by Barbara Romano, 7th ATC Photo Lab)

Only combat jump made in Vietnam

Operation Junction City celebrates anniversary

By Sgt. Brandon Aird
173d ABCT Public Affairs
Photo by Bob Cole,
courtesy of the 173rd
Airborne Brigade
Association archives

Feb. 22 might be just an ordinary day in the year to most people, but for paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, it was the pivotal moment in their airborne career.

Feb. 22, 2007 marks the 40th anniversary of the only combat jump made in Vietnam.

Feb. 22, 1967, known to Soldiers involved as D-day, was the beginning of Operation Junction City.

Nine infantry battalions conducted air assaults (eight airmobile and one parachute) to cordon the entire northeastern portion of the objective near Tay Ninh during phase I.

The goal was to form a horseshoe surrounding the enemy and prevent any escape routes into Cambodia.

On that day., Soldiers from the 173d Airborne Brigade parachuted out of 13 C-130 aircraft landing on drop zone "Charlie"—a 1,000 by 6,000-foot dried rice paddy located deep in enemy territory.

It was the first and only combat jump during the Vietnam War. The objective was to locate and destroy the Central Office of South Vietnam.

Almost 850 Soldiers exited the aircraft that morning — marking the first combat jump since the Korean War. The drop zone gave 26 seconds of green light, which required two passes to put all the Soldiers on the ground.

Once the Sky Soldiers made it onto the drop zone they had 30 minutes to clear and secure the site before 10 C-130 aircraft dropped heavy equipment.

The heavy equipment ranged from jeeps, trucks, mortars, howitzers and ammunition to support the operation.

Soldiers set up blocking positions and the circling operation got under way. There was no enemy contact during the jump. Only 11 minor injuries occurred during the airborne operation.

During phase two of Operation Junction City, the 173rd Airborne Brigade was not initially involved, but 1st Division requested an additional brigade.



Paratroopers from 173d Airborne Brigade prepare to kick off Operation Junction City Feb. 22, 1967 in Vietnam. The operation was the largest operation of the Vietnam War at that time and was deemed a success. It was the first and only combat jump during the Vietnam War.

Consequently, March 20 the 173d Airborne Brigade was attached to the Big Red One with the mission of securing the staging area at Minh Thanh. From March 23 to April 11, the brigade conducted airmobile assaults and search-and-destroy missions in the area of operation.

At midnight May 14, 1967, Operation Junction City, the largest military operation of the Vietnamese conflict at that time, came to an end.

The 173rd Airborne Brigade was only a small element of a larger force. By the end of Operation Junction City, U.S. forces saw to the construction of three airfields, bridges, helicopter landing zones and two fortified camps where Special Forces teams remained as the rest of the force withdrew.

At the end of the operation 2,728 enemy were killed and 34 prisoners taken. Nearly one-half million pages of assorted documents were taken. Two hundred and eighty-two American Soldiers were killed and 1,576 wounded. U.S. forces lost three tanks, 21 armored personnel carriers, 12 trucks, four helicopters, five howitzers and two quad-.50 machine guns and carriers.

The COSVN was not destroyed during the operation, but because of many other small successful missions the overall mission was considered a complete success. Operation Junction City dealt a heavy blow to North Vietnamese forces.

(Historical references for this story, and more information, can be found on the official U.S. Army Web site: www.army.mil/cmh/books/Vietnam/90-7/cont.htm)

Vicenza Tax Center offers extended customer hours

The Vicenza Tax Center is open this Thursday 8 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-noon.

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SETAF Commander
Maj. Gen. Frank G. Helmick

USAG Vicenza Commander
and Publisher
Col. Virgil S. L. Williams

Editor
Diana Bahr

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DSN 634-7000, FAX 634-7543, off post at 0444-71-7000, fax 0444-71-7543.

E-mail: editor@setaf.army.mil

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Helping our children get 'Fit 4 Life'

By Emily Rich
Pediatric Department
U.S. Army Health Clinic-Vicenza
News Release

In the past few years there has been a growing awareness of the problem of obesity in children and adolescents.

In the United States there is now a 25 – 35 percent incidence of childhood obesity across the country, and in certain child populations it is much higher.

We now know that early childhood obesity increases the risk for children to be overweight as adults. There are also higher risks for diabetes, sleep apnea, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and heart disease.

Recent height and weight assessments of Body Mass Index of about 294 Caserma Ederle school children grades 7-12 show that almost 40 percent of our children are either at risk (BMI of 85-94 percent) or overweight (BMI of 95 percent and above).

The pediatric department at the U.S. Army Health Clinic-Vicenza and USAG Vicenza Health Promotion and Well-Being Council have teamed up to help families combat this

growing threat to our children's health.

Named "Fit 4 Life," this multi-dimensional approach involves the garrison, health clinic, Youth Sports, Child and Youth Services, Department of Defense Dependents Schools and other community agencies and services.

The Fit 4 Life program begins March 6 and targets youth who have a BMI of 85 percent and higher.

Children in the program will receive instruction on gym facilities by the post fitness experts and will also learn about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle with the help of the commissary, AAFES and the pediatric professionals at the clinic, among others.

In order to be admitted into the program candidates must undergo a physical exam (or have undergone one in the last six months) and possess the will to embrace the change.

Other organizations addressing this initiative include European Regional Medical Command, USAREUR, Installation Command-Europe and U.S. Air Force Europe.

For more information about the Fit 4 Life program, call Emily Rich, pediatric nurse, 634-7447, or Lesley Gómez, USAG Vicenza Health Promotion coordinator, 634-8828.



Inspirational songs, speech cap African American History month event

Story and photos by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

The Caserma Ederle community was treated to an afternoon of inspirational songs and words to celebrate African American History month at the Ederle Theater Thursday.

Among the performers were the Vicenza Full Gospel Choir and children from Vicenza Elementary School (see photo at left).

“The theme for this year was from ‘Slavery to Freedom: The Story of Africans in the Americas’ and we wanted to celebrate the freedom and liberty we now have to openly declare the name of Jesus and worship God,” said Denise Patterson, a member of

the gospel choir. “These songs are symbolic to the struggles and challenges of then – to now, the celebration of accomplishments and similarities between us as a people and a nation.”

The keynote speaker was Command Sgt. Maj. James Diggs, European Regional Medical Command command sergeant major, who said: “The military is a beacon of hope for African Americans and leads every society on equal opportunity initiatives today... We have grown as a nation because we did not run from our past or our responsibilities.

“Every citizen can make a difference, regardless of his or her political affiliation, social class, race, gender, religion or national origin. Treat others the way you wish to be treated,” he concluded.

Left: Students from Vicenza Elementary School perform for the audience during the African American History month event Thursday.

Below: Command Sgt. Maj. James Diggs, European Regional Medical Command command sergeant major, gives his speech during the event.



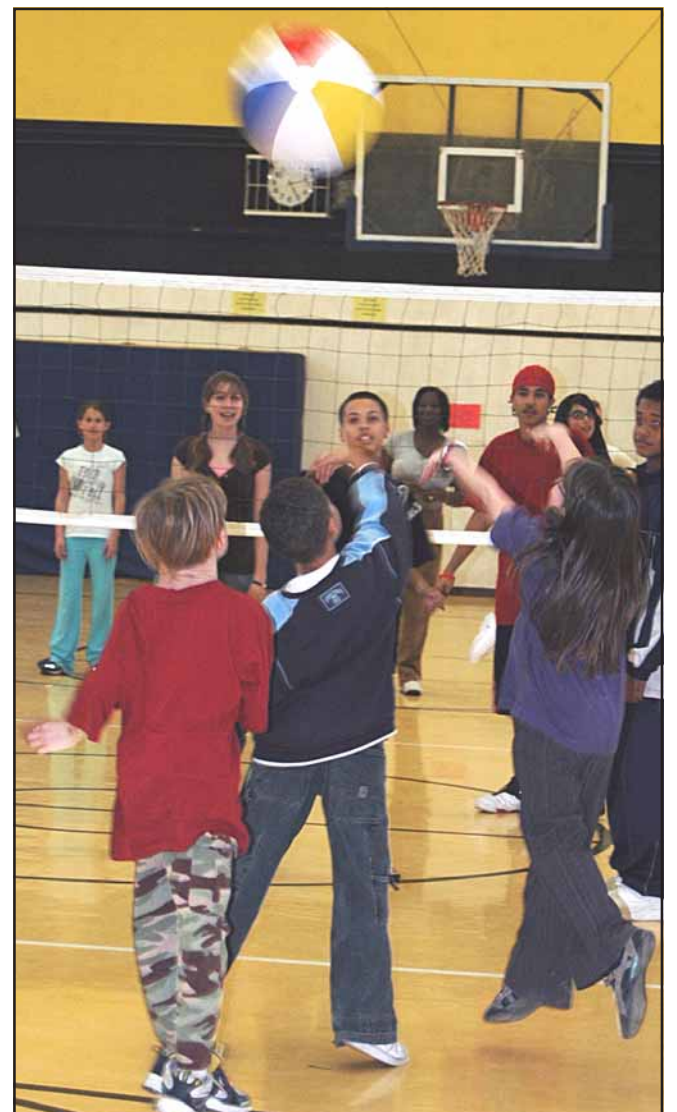
Members of the Vicenza Full Gospel Choir sing “Jesus on the main line,” which led into “Can’t nobody do me like Jesus” during the African American History month celebration held in the Ederle Theater Thursday.



Friendly competition heats up Family Sports Night



Vicenza Middle School’s Family Sports night held Feb. 20 featured fun and games for the whole family. (Above) The Middle School Cheerleaders strutted their stuff after two rousing sets of beach volleyball. (Right) Instead of a regular volleyball, a beachball was used in a game that got the whole family out on the high school gym floor. (Below) During the “Parents vs. Youth” basketball game, a youth moves the ball down the court. Parents won by a squeaker 25-24 (to be fair, the parents spotted the youth two points for every point the parent made) (Below): The National Junior Honor Society took advantage of the event to hold a bake sale. (Photos by Diana Bahr, USAG Vicenza Public Affairs)



Quality of life improvement

Camp Darby Auto Skills Center renovation starts engines roaring

By Staff Sgt. Joyce Costello
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

It has taken five years from the initial project proposal and \$1.2 million, but Camp Darby community members now have a state-of-the-art Auto Skills Center.

Russell Hall, IMCOM-Europe director, attributes the completion of the project to the hard-working, tenacious folks working behind the scenes.

“This is what installation management is all about, bringing the haves and the have-nots together,” said Hall. “This is what the Installation Command wants to see on every one of the garrisons throughout the world.”

The first Auto Skills building was erected in 1967 at a cost of \$4,892 and had four automotive bays.

“Plans were made to renovate

the Auto Skills compound when the buildings failed to meet the Italian Health and Safety Laws” said Diane Anderson, USAG Livorno MWR Recreation Division chief. “While the MWR Board of Directors approved the renovation of the Automotive Skills Center as a corporate NAF project in fiscal year 2002, funding was limited and the project was deferred until FY 2005.”

“I wish you could have seen this center before the renovation. It literally was a 1950s Auto Skills center with three sheds and virtually no equipment inside of it,” said Lt. Col. Stephen Sicinski, USAG Livorno commander. “Now there’s the technical capability to hook your vehicle up to a computer and find out what’s really wrong with it. This is a vast improvement and it is what Soldier and Airmen support is all about.”

The change from the outdated

four auto bays to an entire heated garage with each bay having its own exhaust system is a huge transformation.

Add a new roof, motorcycle lift, rest rooms and a classroom, and you’ve gone from a Ford Pinto to a Porsche.

Keeping force protection and safety in mind, secure exterior vehicle parking area was added, the roads in the compound area were repaved and gates were installed to help secure the work area.

“We have great folks working here who speak the language and have the tools that are needed for American spec cars,” said Hall. “We provide that capability and teach Soldiers how to perform maintenance on their vehicles. It’s all about a team effort.”

One community member at the grand reopening, Sgt. 1st Class Theodore Fisher, said he was looking forward to using the center

to pass on one of his fondest memories from childhood.

“When my brothers and I were young, we learned from our dad how to look after the family car and it was a great bonding time. Now I’ll be able to do the same with my kids.”

Fisher adds that the benefit of saving a few dollars in the process is a definite bonus. “Since I own a Ford Taurus, it’s easier to order the parts that I need and have them shipped here. That helps my family save money for other things.”



A ceremony accredits the successful renovation of the Camp Darby Auto Skills Craft Center. (Photo by Elena Baladelli, USAG Livorno Photo Lab)

Community celebrates Black History month



(Above) A participant sings a heart-warming gospel solo during the 3rd Annual Gospel Extravaganza Feb. 10 with the Camp Darby Gospel Choir and the visiting Italian choir at the Black History Month event held at the Darby Community Club. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Joyce Costello, USAG Livorno Public Affairs)



(Above) The Italian Jubilation Choir performs for the Camp Darby Community during the Black History month event.



Last year’s reigning champions, the Over 30 Crowd Old School team, was defeated by the New School team 66-58 during the hoops game held Feb. 13. (Left) Old School team in red teach the younger team about fighting for the ball.

Camp Darby hosts IMCOM-Europe garrison commanders



Keith Eastin, assistant Secretary of the Army, fields a question from a conference attendee about upcoming changes to installation management in Europe. Eastin was part of the 79 member delegation at the three-day conference held at Camp Darby in February. The conference focused on sharing ideas on how to improve quality of life, how the upcoming NSPS implementation would affect the garrisons in Europe, how utilizing Lean Six Sigma could provide better business practices and key environmental aspects. (Photo by Elena Baladelli, USAG Livorno Photo Lab)

Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

Exhibitions

Vicenza: Once again it's time for the *Abilmente-Bricolage*, an arts and crafts fair held at the exhibition grounds March 1-4.

During the event hobbyists will find booths and events offering advice and information on all aspects of handicrafts.

Open daily from 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m., entrance fee is 7 euro.

Also going on during this period is *'Vicenza Arte'* an exhibition and market of contemporary and modern paintings.

Open March 2, 4-8 p.m.; March 3-4, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and March 5, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Entrance is free.

Parma: "*Mercanteinfiera primavera*," is a collector's paradise for anyone interested in collecting and browsing among antiques

Held in the city's exhibition grounds, it's one of the biggest and most important fairs for collectors and antique-buyers in Italy.

More than 1,000 vendors, offering furniture, paintings, silver, jewelry and china, with something to please all tastes and budgets.

Mercanteinfiera runs from March 3-11 and is open daily, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Entrance fee is 9.50 euro. For details and directions visit the Web site: www.fiere.parma.it

Guitar festival

The 16th National Festival of the Electric and Acoustic Collectable Guitar is held in the town of Soave, province of Verona, April 28-30.

Performances by T. Emmanuel from Australia; J. Jorgenson and Carl Verheyen from the U.S., there will also be several well-known Italian guitarists performing during the three-day period.

Details for performances, clinics, tickets, and more are on the Web site: www.guitaranch.com/soave.htm.

Upcoming area events

Vicenza: *Venere*, a masterpiece by Sebastiano Ricci is on display in Palazzo Thiene until March 25.

Open every Sunday from 10 a.m.-

7 p.m., entrance is free.

'StraVicenza' is a non-competitive road march taking place March 18.

The start point is *Piazza dei Signori* (the main square) and there are three distances: 1½, 4½ and 10 km. Register in the square March 16 from 4-8:30 p.m.; March 17 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3:30-10 p.m., or March 18 from 7:45-9:45 p.m.

Cost is 3 euro for adults; under 14 years of age pay 2 euro.

Quinto Vicentino: View sculptures by Alfonso Fontana in *Villa Thiene* (Quinto's townhall) through March 10.

Open Mondays and Thursdays 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 5:30-7 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 3-7 p.m. Free entrance.

Bassano: The Civic Museum has more than 50 works of art, antique and contemporary, by artists such as Bellotto, Boccioni, Morandi and Dorazio on display until April 9.

Open Tuesday-Sunday 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; entrance to see the exhibit is free, to visit the museum itself costs 4,50 euro.

Visit an observatory museum

Long before the days of the Hubble telescope, an observatory museum was built in Padova in the 1700s. Called the 'Specola Museum' the tower, reachable only by climbing, reaches over 40 meters in height.

The first stop on the way up to the tower includes the Meridian Room. This first room, which is 16 meters from ground level, you can find on the east side of the room a large fresco representing, with geometric precision, the solar system as it was known before 1780.

On the west side of the room is the great mural quadrant of Ramsden of 1778, the greatest existing in Italy, with a diameter of 240 cm.

At the extreme north side you can find a transit instrument used to evaluate the exact instant of time

in which a star transits at the meridian.

On the floor of the room, the meridian line, a line used to measure the exact true noon (the exact moment in which the sun arrives at the highest point over the horizon) of Padova.

As you ascend the stairs to the top, you'll encounter telescopes, pendulum clocks and frescos on the wall.

Individuals may tour the museum Saturdays Oct.-April at 4 p.m. and May-Sept. at 6 p.m. Entrance fee is 7 euro and tickets are available at *S. Michele Oratory* in *Piazzetta S. Michele* located 50 meters from the Specola.

Details are available on the Web site: www.pd.astro.it, which is also available in English.



The Specola Museum located in Padova.

Vicenza Danze 2007

Vicenza Dance 2007 held in Vicenza's exhibition grounds, begins March 3 with the following program:

March 3: Les Ballets Grandiva from New York

March 9: Pascal Rioult Dance Theatre from New York

March 29: Otango - The Ultimate Tango Show-Argentine

April 1: Paquite - Inaki Urlezago Ballet Concierto-Argentine.

At each performance a presentation takes place at 8 p.m.; the performance starting at 9 p.m.

One ticket for all performances is 80 euro and is available at the Panta Rhei Agency, 21 Via Cattaneo in Vicenza, open 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 5-6 p.m.

Tickets for single performances are available the night of the performance from 7-9 p.m. at the exhibition grounds box office and prices vary according to the show.

Now Showing

Caserma Ederle Theater

Feb. 27	CLOSED	
Feb. 28	The Good Shepherd (R)	7 p.m.
March 1	Rocky Balboa (PG)	7 p.m.
March 2	The Pursuit of Happyness (PG13)	7 p.m.
	Children of Men (R)	10 p.m.
March 3	We are Marshall (PG)	1 p.m.
	The Pursuit of Happyness (PG13)	4 p.m.
	The Number 23 (R) (1st Run)	7 p.m.
March 4	We are Marshall (PG)	4 p.m.
	The Pursuit of Happyness (PG13)	7 p.m.
March 5	CLOSED	
March 6	CLOSED	

Camp Darby Theater

March 1	The Good Shepherd (R)	6 p.m.
March 2	Norbit (PG13)	6 p.m.
March 3	Children of Men (R)	6 p.m.
March 4	Charlotte's Web (G)	2 p.m.

Movie Synopsis

THE GOOD SHEPHERD - *Matt Damon, Robert Di Niro.* Edward Wilson understands the value of secrecy - discretion and commitment to honor have been embedded in him since childhood. Wilson's acute mind, spotless reputation and sincere belief in American values render him a prime candidate for a career in intelligence, and he is soon recruited to work for the OSS (the precursor to the CIA) during WWII. Wilson develops into one of the Agency's veteran operatives, all the while combating his KGB counterpart. However, his steely dedication to his country comes at an ever-increasing price.

THE NUMBER 23 - *Jim Carrey, Virginia Madsen.* A man's life unravels after he comes into contact with an obscure book titled "The Number 23." As he reads the book, he becomes increasingly convinced that it is based on his own life. His obsession with the number 23 starts to consume him, and he begins to realize the book forecasts far graver consequences for his life than he could have ever imagined.

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS - *Will Smith, Thandie Newton.* Struggling to make ends meet, Chris Gardner finds himself and his 5-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.

WE ARE MARSHALL - *Matthew McConaughey, Matthew Fox.* While traveling after a game in North Carolina, 75 members of Marshall's football team and coaching staff were killed in a plane crash. As those left behind struggle to cope with the devastating loss of their loved ones, the grieving families found hope and strength in the leadership of Jack Lengyel, a young coach who was determined to rebuild Marshall's football program.

Admission: Age 12 and over \$4, under age 12, \$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.

Every Tuesday at noon, MWR sends the ads to *The Outlook* for the next publication.

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 space available, the ad may be edited.

The Outlook does not take classifieds; sellers must place ads on www.vicenzamwr.com.

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

Bedding/Quilt/Curtains set: King-size spread set. \$50.

2001 Saab 9-5 wagon: U.S. specs, good condition. \$6,500.

Free dog: 2-year-old mixed-breed, housebroken, good with kids, vaccinated, neutered, and okay with cats and other dogs.

Antique Walnut Italian dining room table: Round, \$350 OBO.

Need a dog sitter: Live in Villaggio for a medium-size friendly mutt

2005 Jeep Grand Cherokee 4x4: Loaded. \$23,500 OBO.

2002 Harley Davidson Heritage Softail Classic: Loaded. \$19,500 OBO.

Black-out window shades: Several sizes. \$25 each for smaller shades \$35 each for larger shades.

Gazebo/patio: Perfect covering for outdoor BBQs. \$50.

1995 Honda Civic 1.5: Auto, good car. \$3,000.

Baby bedding: Light blue/pale green toile bedding \$25.

1991 Ford Escort station wagon: Mint condition. 1300 euro.

King-size mattress and box spring: Made in Germany, too big for our bed frame. 1,800.

Graco Pack 'n Play: Light weight, yet sturdy and dependable.

1993 Volvo 460 turbo: Good condition. \$1,200.

Cycling computers: Have 2 never used computers, \$160 each.

1998 Honda Civic: Hatchback, Manual transmission. Dependable. \$5,000 OBO.

1990 Fiat Tipo: 4-Door, good car, needs work. \$650, OBO, or trade.

1997 Lancia Dedra: Loaded, perfect condition. \$2,300.

Looking to dog sit: I am a 14-year-old with dog sitting/walking experience.

Used green 3 seat couch: Good condition. \$100.

Chicco stroller and car seat: Great condition.

Graco Ultra Cargo booster seat: Can be used in any vehicle. \$40.

English Bulldog puppy: Female, 11 weeks old, all shots. Will ship to new home.

Used Xbox games: Can be sold as a package or separately, make an offer.

Poets and artists have written for centuries about the beauty of Florence.

The city is known for having initiated the Renaissance, an artistic and intellectual movement, which began in the 14th century and influenced all the arts and literature in Europe after medieval times.

Many historical sites, monuments, sculptures and paintings date back to the period when the *Medici* Family ruled the city. Especially, *Lorenzo De' Medici* who was known because of his personal taste in arts and because he managed a period of peace and magnificence, so all artists could live and work around his Court.

When the last Medici died in 1737, Florence and the duchy passed to Leopold I of the House of Lorraine. In 1859, the Reign of Piedmont took possession of the city, which became the capital of a united Italy from 1865 to 1870, before Rome did.

Nowadays, Florence is a city that attracts visitors from all over the world and schedules seasonal cultural events and exhibits, in addition to the churches, monuments and museums such as the *Uffizi* Gallery, the *Accademia* and *Opera del Duomo* that are permanently open to thousands of visitors.

If tourists don't have a long time to spend in the city, it is still possible to catch the grandeur of the place, just by walking in the pedestrian area.

Located in the heart of the city is *Piazza Duomo*, the square with the main church *Santa Maria del Fiore*, and its *cupola*, or dome, which is the symbol of the city created by *Filippo Brunelleschi*.

Brunelleschi, who studied ancient architecture and engineering, visited Rome to better learn his craft and then he planned a system to support the weight of this dome, which was the biggest ever built at the time.

It was completed in 1434 just a few years before he died. All visitors who climb the steps may see this structure between the inner and outer domes on the way to the top. The experience may be considered unique, especially when one is close to the top and the passage becomes real narrow.

Once at the top, the view of the dome's shape and the city below, may pay back for the difficulty of the ascent.

But if visitors don't feel like going up to the *Cupola*, they have the chance to reach the top of the other masterpiece that faces the Duomo. It is the *Campanile*, or bell tower begun by *Giotto* in 1334. Giotto was an artist and his basic design was completed after he died in 1337 first by *Andrea Pisano*, and then completed by *Francesco Talenti* in 1359.

The bell tower has a rich sculptural decoration. In fact, niches contain 16 life-size statues and there are 56 reliefs in two registers from Florentine Renaissance masters. The original pieces are at the nearby Museum of the *Opera del Duomo*, as well as the panels for the doors of the Baptistery, the most ancient building in the square probably started in the 9th century.

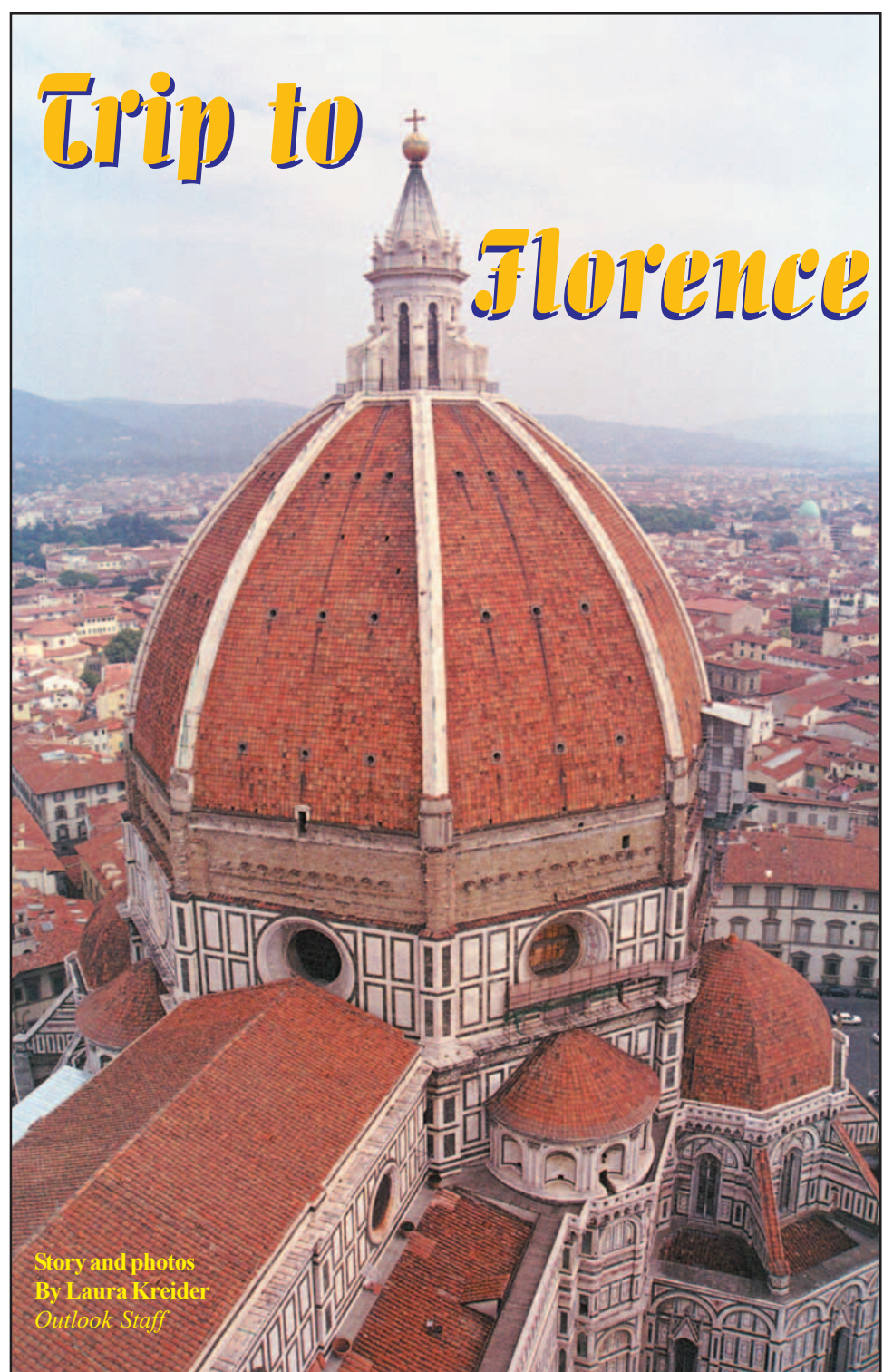
In the 1400s, *Lorenzo Ghiberti* created the panels that depict the life of Christ and the Old Testament, these last ones were called the "Gates of Paradise"

by *Michelangelo*. The *Museo dell'Opera del Duomo*, which is just behind the church, is less visited than

other Florentine museums but it contains relics of the Duomo's past, wooden models of the dome with the original tools for building it, and sculptures by *Donatello* and *Michelangelo*, such as the last *Pieta'* where the figure of *Nicodemus*, who is supporting Christ, may represent the face of *Michelangelo* himself.

Not far from this area, there is the other world famous square, named *Piazza della Signoria* with the *Palazzo Vecchio* and the nearby *Uffizi* Gallery that connects the Piazza with the *Arno* River. In the past, the original statue of *David* -that *Michelangelo* completed in 1501 while 26- was located near the entrance of the *Palazzo Vecchio*.

Since 1873, the statue has been on display in the *Galleria dell'Accademia* that is about a twenty-minute walk from the original place. The *David* has been moved to the *Accademia* to help reduce the possible damage caused



Above: View of *Santa Maria del Fiore* from *Giotto's* bell tower and (left) the inner dome created by *Filippo Brunelleschi* in 1420. The dome was frescoed by *Giorgio Vasari* (1572-74) and, at

his death, completed by *Federico Zuccari* in 1579. Center and below: Detail and facade of *Palazzo Pitti*, started by *Brunelleschi* in 1440. Nowadays, it boasts about seven museums. Behind it, is the *Boboli Gardens*, a renowned landscaped park.



* ITR Trip *

The *Vicenza Information, Tours and Registration (ITR)* offers a trip to Florence on March 3.

The cost is \$45 for adults, \$33 for children ages 3 to 12, and free for children under three years old.

The trip includes transportation, guided tour and escort assistance.

The departure is scheduled for 7 a.m. from the Chapel parking lot, and return about 10 p.m. Bus journey is approximately four hours, and there will be a 30-minute rest stop each way.

For those interested in visiting the *Uffizi* the ticket is 11,50 Euro and for the *Accademia* Gallery 6,50 Euro.

Sign up at ITR, located across from the shoppette. For more detailed information about this and other upcoming trips call ITR at 634-7094 or commercial 0444-71-7094.

ITR is open Mon-Thu from 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Fri from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sat.-Sun. from noon-4 p.m.