

## What's Inside

**Garrison news,  
pages 2 & 3**  
Satellite shoot-down  
puts SETAF on  
target

Changes made in  
Passport office

Speak Out

AER: Soldiers  
Help care for  
Soldiers

Vicenza Community  
Calendar debuts

SETAF Disciplinary  
report

At your service

Community  
events,  
pages 4 & 5

Bamberg Warriors  
in Transition learn  
new skills

Vicenza women  
participate in local  
candle lighting



Darby's  
Transportation units  
move equipment in/  
out in support of  
OEF

Community  
news,  
pages 6 & 7

Out & About

Movie schedule

Community notes

Travel  
page 8

## SETAF mechanics ratchet up in Botswana

By Sgt. Justin Nieto  
SETAF Public Affairs

SETAF mechanics took their skills abroad to instruct those serving in the Botswana Defense Force in the roles and responsibilities of a maintenance Soldier.

The Joint Contact Team Program, composed of Chief Warrant Officer Robert Pitts, Master Sgt. George Duenas and Sgt. 1st Class Michael Johnson, SETAF Maintenance Division, made the trip to Gaborone, Botswana, under the European Command's Theater Security Cooperation Plan to work with the BDF from Feb. 24 -March 2.

The training, which focused on maintenance and maintenance management, was a great success, said Pitts. "We were well received by the BDF and deeply appreciate their discipline and professionalism as soldiers. It made our jobs easier.

"It was interesting to see the way a foreign military handles its logistics compared to the way we do it here," said Pitts. "We learned from them and there is a lot they can learn from us."

"This represented the first maintenance training for many of these soldiers and so it was very basic," said Duenas, who served as the mission's lead NCO. "I think the opportunity is there for more in-depth training down the road; something more hands-on and face-to-face."

Duenas added that the SETAF Soldiers were not sure what to expect when they arrived in Botswana.

"I was surprised when we first got in country," he said. "They have a wide mixture of equipment."

Duenas said the soldiers were receptive to instructions and well on their way to a more streamlined organization of their vehicle equipment.

"I learned as much from them as they did from us in our short time there," said Johnson, who also served as an instructor for the classes.

"It was a great experience to see their equipment, observe how they operate, and to instruct them and see the soldiers applying that knowledge to their work," he said.

The soldiers' ranks varied from warrant officers (equivalent of a sergeant major), majors, captains, lieutenants and staff sergeants from units all over the BDF.

Although they only had about a week of boots on the ground, the team managed to cover a wide range of maintenance basics, including:

- ◆ Levels of maintenance
- ◆ Daily operations of a brigade/battalion maintenance officer/maintenance technician, and maintenance NCO
- ◆ Proper safety standards as prescribed by Army regulations
- ◆ Hazardous waste disposal procedures
- ◆ Proper fleet configurations to



Chief Warrant Officer Robert Pitts, SETAF Maintenance Division, helps a Botswana Defense Force soldier prepare a cable used in the recovery of disabled vehicles. Pitts served as the officer in charge of the three-Soldier team sent to Botswana to help familiarize its military with the roles and responsibilities of a maintenance soldier. (Photo by Master Sgt. George Duenas, SETAF Maintenance Division)

best meet mission requirements

- ◆ Unique considerations for tracked vs. wheeled vehicle maintenance
- ◆ Parts procurement
- ◆ Minimum essential repairs
- ◆ Budget and finance issues
- ◆ Management of salvaged vehicles/source of spare parts.

Pitts noted there were some additional areas of particular interest to the BDF officers.

"They were interested in the

purpose, function and operation of the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office," he said. "They were also curious about the life cycle management concept for equipment.

"Many of the soldiers in the class were asking questions about vehicle recovery operations as well," said Pitts.

"The team noted this interest and offered up some hip-pocket training and a hands-on exercise on

recovery operations," he added.

Pitts said the BDF soldiers also asked questions about the U.S. Army in general and were interested in the rank progression process for Soldiers in the U.S. Army.

"One of the corporals we had the opportunity to speak with had 30 years of service in the BDF and many of the captains had over 20 years of service, so they were very curious about how we promote in the U.S. Army," he said.

## Family Computer Center officially opens to community

Russell B. Hall, Installation Management Command Europe regional director, seated, points out information found on a Web site to (left to right) Tatiana Robles, Liliana McCarthy and Tysheia Jefferson, Family Computer Center assistants. "The Family Computer Center demonstrates our commitment to the Army Family Covenant," said Hall after the grand opening ceremony held Thursday. "Opening this additional Internet, e-mail capable, family-friendly operation demonstrates USAG Vicenza and IMCOM-E's unwavering commitment to our Soldiers and families." The FCC is unique in that it has a protected area for children to play in while their parents use the Internet. Lisa Preysler, Family Readiness Group



senior advisor, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, brought the idea to the attention of DFMWR. The center is open

Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-10 p.m. and weekends 10 a.m.-10 p.m. and is located in the former Subway shop in Club V.

## Satellite shoot-down puts SETAF on target, tests rapid response capabilities

**Story and photo**  
by Spc. Crystal Abbott  
*SETAF Public Affairs*

Soldiers from the Southern European Task Force (Airborne) were put to the test in February, proving how quickly they could deploy to provide command and control support for Task Force Recovery (Land).

Ready to mitigate possible damage caused by a falling U.S. satellite, Task Force Recovery (Land), composed of U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force service members from all over Europe including Germany, Italy, Spain and Portugal, was prepared to deploy anywhere within 92 countries of Europe and Africa that comprise the U.S. European Command's area of responsibility.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates ordered the U.S. Navy to shoot down the satellite prior to its reentry to the Earth's

atmosphere in order to alleviate the threat and potential damage.

On Feb. 21 a U.S. Navy warship fired a single modified tactical standard missile, hitting the satellite approximately 153 miles over the Pacific Ocean as it traveled in space at more than 17,000 miles per hour.

Even though the task force was not needed to react to a satellite impact in Europe or Africa, Maj. Gen. Frank G. Helmick, SETAF commander, said the planning process and subsequent deployment were a good test of SETAF's abilities to respond quickly.

"It's been a tremendous opportunity for us," said Helmick. "Any time you get a chance to exercise your outfit is beneficial."

"SETAF Soldiers stand ready for any 911 mission," agreed SETAF Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Rice, "anywhere, anytime."



Sgt. Edwin Laboy, who works in the SETAF plans and operations section, adjusts an antenna to obtain better signal reception for the tactical satellite radio, which can be used to provide voice communication during deployments. The test was part of readying equipment in support of Task Force Recovery (Land), a joint command responsible for mitigating possible damage caused by a falling U.S. satellite.

## Passport office makes changes to help expedite passports

**Directorate of Human Resources**  
*Special to the Outlook*

Several changes are taking place in the passport arena that will affect how the Directorate of Human Resources, Passport section conducts business.

As of April 1 the passport office will no longer accept hand written documents of the following applications or forms:

- a. Report of birth abroad (DS-2029)
- b. Application for Passport (DS-11) for first time applications for tourist passport and no-fee (red official) passport.
- c. Application for U.S. passport by mail (DS-82) for renewals of the tourist passport and the no-fee passport only.
- d. Statement regarding a lost or stolen passport (DS-64)
- e. Application for Social Security card (Form SS-5-SF)
- f. Name change, data correction, and limited passport book replacement (DS-5504).

The forms above are all available online

through either the [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov) Web site or the Social Security Web site.

Computers are available at the FMWR Family Computer Center located at Club V for those customers who do not have computers at home.

The Passport office hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. - noon and 1-3 p.m.

Clients must ensure paperwork is completely filled out prior to coming to the office.

### Photos

Clients must ensure passport photos are according to standards as identified by the State Department, see passport and visa photo guide on the State Department's Web site.

Passport photos may be taken free at the Photo Lab, located behind the dining facility, call the Photo Lab at 634-7508 for hours and directions.

As of April 1 the Passport office will have a computer station set-up to assist

customers who need to make last minute changes to their applications and forms.

### Fee changes

Passport fees changed Feb. 1, 2008, please see below for applicable fees.

#### DS-11 Application for Passport

First time tourist passport for ages age 16 and older: \$100.

First time tourist passport for those under age 16): \$85.

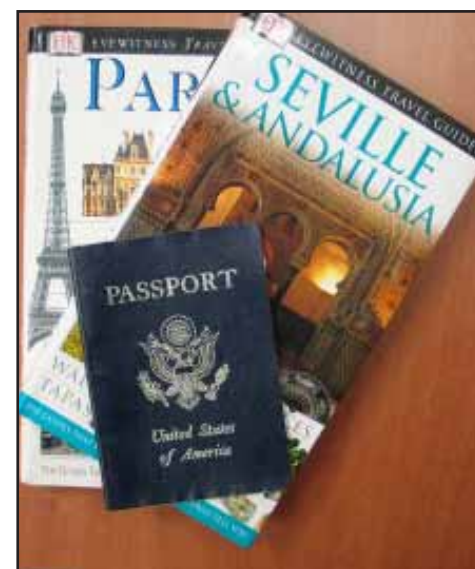
No-fee passports are still free.

**DS-82 Passport Renewal by Mail**  
Tourist Passport all ages: \$75.

No-Fee passport: \$0.

These payments are made with a postal money order and the Passport Office will tell you who to make the money order out to. This can be done the day you bring in all of your paperwork.

**Special Note:** Official passports are not to be used for unofficial travel except as authorized according to the Department of State guidance below:

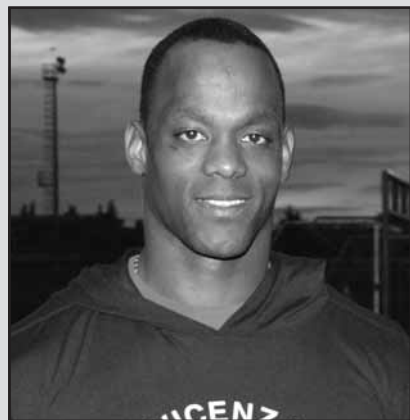


*"While outside the United States, no-fee passports may be used for incidental personal travel between foreign destinations providing the foreign government concerned accepts no-fee passports for personal travel. If the foreign government does not accept no-fee passports for personal travel, travelers must obtain regular fee passports at their own expense."*

## Speak Out

**"What sport, fitness or wellness program do you enjoy most on post? Why do you do it?"**

*By Laura Kreider*



**Sgt. 1st Class Patrick T. Brown**  
SETAF

Weight lifting/CARDIO because I feel that staying in shape helps you live longer.



**Katie Malone**  
Family member

The Gym Rat Program because it motivates me to continue my level of fitness.



**Laura Pinton**  
Child Development Center

I like playing volleyball because it is a team sport. It's good to play together and to share a discipline which has some rules.



**Jeffrey and Ivett Toporczyk**  
Fire Department

Racquetball and stepping machine. It's very good exercise that we enjoy together.

## Army Emergency Relief

# Soldiers helping take care of Soldiers

Story and photo by Diana Bahr  
USAG Vicenza Public Affairs

Army Emergency Relief (AER) is a nonprofit organization that assists active and retired Soldiers and their families with unforeseen financial emergencies.

AER gets its funds primarily from voluntary contributions and from repayment of AER interest-free loans, investment income and unsolicited contributions.

This year, Col. Virgil S.L. Williams, USAG Vicenza commander, will officially kick off the AER campaign March 17 at 2 p.m. in Davis Soldier and Family Readiness Center.

During the 2007 AER campaign, a total of \$59,888 was donated by the community. But AER gave more than \$146,000 in the form of interest-free loans and grants to 137 Soldiers and family members between Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2007, according to Valerie Sweed, Army Emergency Relief officer.

"In 1997 when I first joined the Army I didn't speak English and went to Lackland Air Force Base to learn English," said Staff Sgt. Carlos Muniz, a native of Puerto Rico and member of the 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team Rear Det. "Afterward, I went to basic training at Fort Jackson. While there, my father passed away and I needed to buy a plane ticket to fly back home for the funeral. Most recently, I used

AER to help pay for the transmission work on my van.

"AER is a benefit Soldiers may not realize they have," continued Muniz. "If you have the choice between putting food on your table and paying cash for an emergency, put food on the table and borrow the money. Since it comes out of your paycheck without interest, it's easier to pay back—and doesn't go on your credit report."

"We can assist with auto repairs, emergency travel expenses, utility bills, rent and more," said Sweed, whose office is located on the second floor in DSFRC. "Any assistance we give is in the form of

a no-interest loan, a grant, or a combination of the two. The type of assistance is determined on a case-by-case basis."

What determines the difference between receiving a grant - which is not repaid - or a loan?

Grants are considered only when the inability to repay exists or would cause an extreme hardship, according to Sweed. Also, grants are not given for expenses which will be reimbursed by insurance companies or the U.S. government.

To find out more about AER, call Sweed at 634-8524/7500, or 0444-71-8524/7500 or log on to the Web site at [www.aerhq.org](http://www.aerhq.org).



Staff Sgt. Carlos Muniz, a native of Puerto Rico and member of the 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team Rear Detachment, stands next to the family van. Muniz recently used the Army Emergency Relief fund to help cover the cost of repairing the van's transmission as the repair shop wouldn't accept a credit card.

## Vicenza community calendar comes online

**What is the community calendar?** The community calendar is a one-stop shop for all community events hosted by authorized Vicenza military community organizations.

**Where can we find the calendar?** The calendar website is available through the SETAF and USAG Vicenza Web sites.

The calendar is password protected and hosted through the Army Knowledge Online Web site and users must have either AKO or DKO account in order to access it.

**I don't have an AKO or DKO account. How do I get one?** AKO accounts are authorized for Active Army, Army Reserve, National

Guard, DA civilian, retired Army, and Army guests. These same people are also authorized to sponsor AKO accounts for other people who have a military affiliation—such as a family member, contractor and Army volunteer.

DKO accounts are authorized for people who work for the Department of Defense.

**What type of events are on the calendar?** Everything ranging from Outdoor Recreation trips to school events to Chapel programs and more.

If it's an authorized event, it can



be posted to the calendar.

**What about private organizations, like Boy and Girl Scouts?** Private organizations approved by the garrison are also allowed to post events.

Private organizations do need to have an AKO or DKO account to post information.

Private organizations can call Diana Bahr, USAG Vicenza Public Affairs, for information at 634-7581 or off post at 0444-71-7581, or e-mail [diana.bahr@eur.army.mil](mailto:diana.bahr@eur.army.mil).

## SETAF disciplinary report

SETAF Chief of  
Military Justice  
Special to the Outlook

During the months of November 2007 through February 2008, six Soldiers were convicted at courts-martial.

Below is a break-down of the punishments they received:

Staff Sgt. Daniel Gaskins, Allied Forces South Battalion, USANATO, was convicted at a general court martial of the following charges: carnal knowledge of 12-year-old child; indecent acts with a child; and indecent assault.

The military panel sentenced Gaskins to a reduction to E1, forfeiture all pay and allowances, confinement for 12 years, and a dishonorable discharge.

Pfc. Wayne Giles, HHD, 509th Signal Bn, pled guilty at a general court martial to the following charges: conspiracy to distribute LSD; use, distribution, wrongful introduction onto a military installation, attempted distribution and attempted exportation of LSD; and use, distribution and exportation of ecstasy.

The military judge sentenced Giles to a reduction to E1, forfeiture all pay and allowances, confinement for four years, and a bad-conduct discharge.

Pfc. Andrew Hegerty, Rear Detachment, 2-503d IN (ABN), pled guilty at a general court martial to the following charges: desertion with intent to avoid Hazardous Duty and disobeying a noncommissioned officer.

The military judge sentenced Hegerty to a reduction to E1, forfeiture all pay and allowances, confinement for one year, and a bad-conduct discharge.

In exchange for pleading guilty, Hegerty will be confined for a maximum of nine months.

Master Sgt. Mark McDowell, HSC, SETAF, pled guilty at a summary court martial to the following charges: maltreatment of a subordinate; assault consummated by a battery; resisting apprehension; disrespect of commissioned officer; two specifications of the use of provoking words or gestures; drunk and disorderly; and four specifications of communicating a threat. The convening authority approved a sentence of reduction to E-7, forfeiture of \$2,025.90, and a written reprimand.

Pvt. Jonathan Medel, 3-68th Transportation Company, pled guilty at a summary court martial to the following charges: indecent acts; unlawful entry; adultery; assault consummated by a battery; and breach of peace. Medel was sentenced to reduction to E-1, forfeiture of \$867, and 30 days confinement.

Pvt. Alexis Bland, Vicenza Dental Clinic, pled guilty at a summary court martial to the following charges: unlawful entry; six specifications of Larceny; two specifications of failure to report; three specifications of disobeying a noncommissioned officer; and false official statement. Bland was sentenced to forfeiture of \$500 and 30 days confinement.

## Security Awareness training offered

Individual Security Awareness Training (Antiterrorism Level I Training) is offered in the Hall of Heroes to all military, DoD/local national civilian employees and family members 14 years and older.

The training is held 10:30-noon on March 12, April 16 and May 6.

As a reminder for those who may need childcare while in the training, the Child Development Center offers hourly care for children ages six weeks-5 years of age.

Cost is \$4 per child per hour and children must be registered at the

CDC. As space at the CDC is limited, reservations can be made at least two weeks in advance by calling 634-7559 or from off post to 0444-71-7559.

Antiterrorism Level I training is an annual requirement for all military, DoD/local national civilian employees and family members 14 years and older. (Note: This training will also be offered to DoD contractors.)

For additional details call Larry Kilgore at 634-8288 or Pat Hooper at 634-8984.

## The Outlook

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## At your service

Valerie Sweed is the Army Emergency Relief Officer for the Vicenza military community.

"I can help active duty Soldiers and their family members with emergency financial needs for food, rent, utilities, emergency transportation and vehicle repair," said Sweed. "I can also help with funeral expenses, medical and dental expenses and personal needs when pay is delayed or stolen.

"I also distribute AER applications for the Overseas Spouse Education Assistance program and the Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship program for undergraduate-level education to spouses, surviving spouses and children of Soldiers," she continued.

Sweed is located upstairs in the Davis Soldier and Family Readiness Center, Bldg 108. Office hours are Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m., call her at 634-8524/7500, or off post at 0444-71-8524/7500.



Valerie Sweed

# Community events

## Being productive helps warriors in transition

Story and photo by Amy Bugala  
USAG Garrison Bamberg

The Bamberg Warrior Transition Unit is looking beyond the physical injury in addressing the mind, spirit and heart of each injured Soldier by incorporating part-time work into their daily routines.

A WTU Soldier's priority is his medical appointments with his primary care physician; then responsibility to his unit; and then to his vocational interests or even a job, said squad leader Staff Sgt. Ronald Chitty.

Bamberg's WTU activated as part of the Army Medical Action Plan, as the first four wounded Soldiers arrived in November 2007; currently there are 22 Soldiers assigned.

Chitty is charged with helping the unit stay focused on the mission, and, along with Kyshone Moss, a nurse case manager, is using the Soldiers' input to build and refine programs.

"Soldiers facing MEBs (Medical Evaluation Boards) are really talking about the need to adapt to civilian life," said Joseph Pehm, social work services chief, who oversees a monthly support group for WTU members.

Support during transition is especially important for those undergoing an MEB, which determines if a Soldier still meets the requirements to remain in the military.

To help deal with the mind and the spirit of a Soldier, "we treat the whole person – not just the injury – because it is about the transition as well," Pehm said.

It's about helping Soldiers, he stressed, answer the question: "What will it mean to me and my life if I can't continue to work for the Army?"

Chitty addresses these concerns head-on. "All my warriors work, Bamberg is 100 percent employed," he said proudly, giving credit to unit and garrison leadership for their support.

Spc. Mica B. Kells was one of the first Soldiers to join the WTU. Kells, a former mechanic with the 173rd Brigade Support Battalion, now can be found assisting Soldiers during in-processing at Army Community Service.

"There is a real need for this kind of program," said Kells. He explained how the WTU provides direction and speeds up the process of getting a troop back to his regular Army duties quicker or onto another focus, such as school.

The WTU was a big change of pace for Spc. Chadwick Mollohan, 25, who has deployed twice during his Army career, and was also working as a mechanic with the 173rd BSB. "I went into something that revolved around me instead of me working for something," he said.

As a WTU charter member, he has been a



Sgt. Jamerson Hayward (right) listens to instructions from Spc. Donald Heitger, an Army medic, while taking Kyshone Moss' blood pressure at the U.S. Army Health Clinic Bamberg. Hayward, a Soldier in the Warrior Transition Unit, is training to assist at the clinic.

valuable resource in developing and refining processes for the Soldier and family assistance center located at ACS. Mollohan believes that having a job gives people "a purpose."

ACS isn't the only garrison agency working with the WTU. Soldiers have been placed in positions at the health clinic, Military Police, the directorate of public Works and other offices on post.

WTU Soldier Sgt. Jamerson Hayward is currently training to assist with medical screenings at the Bamberg Health Clinic. Hayward, a former Navy medical corpsman,

is excited about the opportunity to use his skills to help others while recovering from his own injuries. With almost 12 years of active-duty service, he believes a program such as the WTU is "absolutely necessary."

"With this unit, there is no way to get lost in the system," he added. Chitty said all participating agencies are aware of the Soldiers' restrictions – and their number-one priority: their appointments.

"I love my job," Chitty said. "There (aren't any) of my warriors working at a job right now that they don't like. They tell me, and their supervisors tell me, on a weekly basis."



## Vicenza military community's women spice ceremony with international flavor

Story and photos by Jon Fleshman  
USAG Vicenza Public Affairs

Antigua, Lithuania and China were some of the countries represented by women from the Vicenza military community at a candle-lighting ceremony Friday evening in the 15th-century Gonfalone Chapel downtown Vicenza.

"We have come together to participate in a special tribute to one of the world's most influential organizations, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, which unites women around the world," explained Carla Laura Petruzzelli, president of the local Italian associated club, in her remarks

during the ceremony. The primary aim of BPW International, Petruzzelli said, is developing the professional and leadership potential for women at all levels.

"The candles symbolize the ambitions and endeavors of dedicated women in every country around the world. Each white candle represents a federation. Each blue candle stands for a country where there is at least one associated club, and the pink candles are for individual members," said Petruzzelli.

The Vicenza garrison's equal employment opportunity officer, Cindy Pierson, lit the white candle for the U.S. She also read the English version of a poem known as "The International Collect."

Two members of the Vicenza military community received many compliments from their Italian hosts for wearing traditional costumes from their countries of birth: Antoinette Samuel for Antigua and Jolanta Jackson for Lithuania.

Also participating from the Vicenza military community were: Aleta Vetter for the United States; Cailene Ayala, Puerto Rico; Irina Moskalenko, Russia; Lei Penland, China; Anna Terracino and Francesca Gheller, Italy.

BPW International has affiliates in 80 countries on five continents. In keeping with the international spirit of the ceremony, some of the participants from the Vicenza military community lit candles for more than one country.



(Top left) Club president Carla Peruzzelli (far left) watches as (far right) Cailene Ayala and Irina Moskalenko light candles for Spain and Russia. (Top right) Antoinette Samuel (left) in traditional Antiguan costume lights a candle while Maria Polato, a BPW past president, tracks the countries. (Above) Maria Volosei (left) lights a candle for Moldova as Jolanta Jackson in traditional costume lights one for Lithuania.

## Darby unit moves mountain of airborne essentials

By Chris Cole  
839th Transportation Battalion  
Italy Detachment director  
*Special to the Outlook*

Soldiers and civilians of the Camp Darby-based 839th Transportation Battalion and the 839th's Italy Detachment found themselves at Naval Station Rota, Spain helping support the deployment of the 101st Airborne Combat Aviation Brigade and redeploy the 82nd Airborne Combat Aviation Brigade.

Planning for this operation

started many months earlier when the 839th was told that helicopters and associated cargo of the 101st would arrive by ship at NS Rota seaport.

Once off-loaded, the cargo would then move to the airfield and immediately be reconfigured for airlift and sent to Afghanistan via C-5 and C-17 aircraft. Concurrently, helicopters for the redeploying 82nd would be moved to NS Rota via airlift for eventual loading onto a vessel for final movement to the U.S.

As in past operations the 839th

Trans Bn, the Theater Aviation Sustainment Manager-Europe (TASM-E), Naval Station Rota, Military Sealift Command, and U.S. Air Force's 725th Air Mobility Squadron would combine efforts to guarantee a successful mission.

The work began in December as personnel from the 839th arrived in Rota for final coordination. The staging area was a concern as the 86 helicopters and 171 other pieces of equipment was the largest movement of aviation assets through Rota to date.

The USNS Pililaa arrived in

Rota two days later and operations got underway with 839th personnel position within the ship to perform simultaneous LO/LO (lift on/lift off) and RO/RO (Roll on/roll off) operations.

Discharge of containers from the weather deck was an early focus as the hatch cover and surrounding area on the vessel had to be cleared of cargo to facilitate the lifting of 12 CH-47s and 30 OH-58s.

At the same time, the 24 AH-64s and 20 UH-60s began to roll off of the vessel and were prepped for movement to the airfield.

Dec. 29 began with a change of priorities as the aircraft arrived at the airfield earlier than expected. Crews worked late into the night and watched as the last OH-58 left the USNS Pililaa – in a day and a half 250 pieces of equipment were moved to their new locations.

When the 839th returned to NS Rota in early February, the 82nd Airborne's equipment had arrived from Afghanistan. Personnel went into action getting an accurate count of all equipment and ensuring documentation for the cargo was finalized and correct. All organizations also walked through

the seaport staging plan which was set up to accurately and efficiently reflect how the vessel would be stowed.

Through close coordination with NS Rota and TASM-E, the 839th started to call forward equipment from the airfield to the seaport and completed staging the next day.

When the USNS Seay arrived a few days later, the crew was met with early challenges from high winds (25-30 knots) and a less than ideal vessel ramp angle as a result of congested berthing space at the seaport.

The next morning, winds were still high as equipment was rolled onto the USNS Seay. When they subsided, personnel focused on lifting nine CH-47s onto the ship. By the time the winds kicked up again, the Chinooks had been successfully moved and attention went to rolling the final helicopters and containers onto the vessel.

After only a day and a half of operations the 839th Trans Bn and Italy Detachment, along with Spanish contractors and TASM-E, had successfully completed the loading of 53 helicopters and more than 100 pieces of equipment.



Helicopters and additional equipment are staged at the Naval Station Rota seaport according to the vessel prestow plan. (Photo by Roberto Casalini, Italy Detachment)

## Caserma Ederle teens take on Buffett in Investment Challenge

Story and photo by Laura Kreider  
*Outlook staff*

Have you ever followed the stock market? Do you know the meaning of dividend or profit?

If the answer is no, you may not know who Warren Buffett is either.

To help post youth understand more about finances, Col. Jamie Houston, Vicenza Dental Clinic, held an Investment Challenge seminar at the Teen Center Feb. 26.

After an initial lecture, each student participating in the course was given a fictitious \$3,000 to invest in three stocks of their choosing.

"The purpose of the course is to give to the students what I didn't have when I was in high school," said Houston. If I had a course like this, I don't know if I would have become a dentist.

"Teaching folks about investing and having a goal for which to reach makes saving money easier," continued Houston. "Being able to teach someone about estate planning or how to make money is a powerful tool."

Many people don't realize the low rates that the banks are giving, according to Houston.

"If you put \$1,000 in a typical saving or checking account, you lose money to inflation," he emphasized. "I want to teach them [participants] the basics of the Rule of '72 – compounding and investing in the stock market (historically 11 percent gains since 1926) versus saving in a banking account (making .25 percent or 44 times less)."

"I just walked in the teen center and I found out about this course," said 10th-grader Zachary Bishop. "It's interesting and now I can research on stocks online."

The presentation was clear and a good opportunity to learn some things about life and money while young, according to Thomas Nantz.

"It's good to learn at an early age, because by the time you get older you understand it more and



Col. Jamie Houston, from the Vicenza Dental Clinic, presents the Investment Challenge Course to some Vicenza High School students. The seminar was held at the Teen Center Feb. 26.

you have more experience," stressed 10th-grader Nantz.

Participants' choices will be followed for three months. The three students who have made the largest amount of profit between March 1 and May 20 will receive financial awards.

First place winner will receive \$100; second place will receive \$50; and third place will receive \$25.

And who is Warren Buffett?

He just beat out Microsoft founder Bill Gates as Forbes magazine's richest man in the world.

## Teen honored for achievements

Story and photo by Laura Kreider  
*Outlook staff*

"We are very proud to announce Adriana Espinoza as the USAG Vicenza Youth of the Year," said Michael Morris, Child and Youth Services Youth Services program director during the ceremony held Feb. 28.

"Adriana is everything that we look for in a Youth of the Year: she is a leader, mentor and good role model for other youth," continued Morris. "Adriana has been coming to the Teen Center for six months now, and in a relatively short time, she has made a profound

impression on staff. She shows a passion to get involved in all activities and decision making at the center. Adriana has amazing skills in dealing with her fellow adolescents; she can work with adults and youth in an equally professional manner."

"I am honored and greatly humbled to be recognized as Youth of the Year," said Espinoza. "It is so satisfying to me to help others. It is especially significant to help middle school students because it's such a pivotal time for them."

Espinoza received a computer from the Vicenza Community Club for her achievements.



(L-R) Melissa Helmick, wife of SETAF commander Maj. Gen. Frank G. Helmick, Debbie Jordan, Vicenza Community Club 2nd vice president of community enrichment, Adriana Espinoza, Youth of the Year, and Michael Morris, USAG Vicenza Child & Youth Services Youth Program director, pose for a photo after the ceremony.

## Darby Dates

### Barberino Designer Outlet Shopping Trip

March 15, 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Transportation is \$20.

Spend a day shopping to your heart's content. Visit the Furla, Fila, Calvin Klein, Bruno Magli outlets and more.

### City sightseeing tickets

Discover the wealth of history of Italian cities on board the "Hop On – Hop Off" buses. Get on and off as often as you want for the entire day. Discover the lovely cities of Pisa, Florence and Rome at discounted prices.

For details or to make a reservation, contact ITR at 633-7589/8231 or from off post at 050-54-7589/8231.

### Auto skills center

The Camp Darby Auto Skills center now offers a new range of services to include oil changes and other automotive maintenance services.

For details, call 633-7009, or 050-54-7009 or from off post.

### Send video messages to deployed Soldiers

While the Yellow Ribbon room is in transition stop by and send a message using the computers that are equipped with web-cams, Viditalk and instant messaging capabilities.

Call ACS for additional information at 633-7084 or 050-54-7084 from off post.

## Road march in Vicenza

*StraVicenza* is the name of the road march to take place in Vicenza March 16.

Distances are 1.5, 4.5, and 10 km, start and end in main square in the city center, Piazza dei Signori at 10 a.m. with a gathering time of 8 a.m.

The march goes through all the main streets of the city.

Registration is in the square on March 14 from 4-8:30 p.m.; March 15 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3:30-10 p.m. or on the day of the march from 7:45-9:45 a.m.

Cost is 5 euro for adults and 4 euro for children under 14 years old. More than 7,000 people are expected to attend.

Note that also March 16 is a no drive day in the city of Vicenza. Participants are requested to park their car in the parking lot near the soccer stadium, located not too far from the Caserma or in Via Cricoli, which is located on the other side of town, and take the bus to the city center. Buses and parking in the lots are free from 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

The Website, in Italian only, is [www.stravicenza.it](http://www.stravicenza.it)

## Exhibitions

Vicenza: The exhibition, *Luxury & Yachts*, will take place in the exhibition grounds March 14-16.

Luxury items on display include yachts, cars, a helicopter, modern and contemporary art, fishing rods, pens, guns and jewelry.

Open daily 9:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. and entrance fee is 20 euro.

Art exhibition featuring art works by Cia Salvati Pigatti can be seen in the church of *SS. Ambrogio e Bellino*, located on *Contra' Sant' Ambrogio*, downtown Vicenza.

The event is open until April 13 every Thursday and Friday from 3-7 p.m., Saturday, Sunday 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-7 p.m., entrance is free;

Interested in architecture? Visit the exhibition in Palazzo Barbaran da Porto, downtown Vicenza located on *Contra Porti*, to see wooden models of Andrea Palladio's works. Open Tuesday-Thursday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday-Sunday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Entrance fee 2 euro.

## Classical music

March 12, 9 p.m., in the Remondini Theatre, Bassano del Grappa classical music will be played by Jelena Ocic on violoncello and Federico Lovato on piano. Entrance fee is 10 euro.

Additional music played will be by Cesar Franck, Anatolijus Senderovas and Alberto Ginastera.

## Sculpture exhibit in Milan

Marble masterpieces by the Italian sculptor Antonio Canova are on show in Milan's Palazzo Reale.

Featured are seven of the artist's most famous sculptures including the Winged Venus, the Repentant Mary Magdalene, the Genius of Death and the Three Graces, commissioned by Napoleon's first wife, Josephine, are featured.

The Russian Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg has also loaned works by later neoclassical sculptors who took their inspiration from Canova.

Open Monday 2:30-7:30 p.m.; Tuesday-Sunday 9:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.; Thursdays until 10:30 p.m. Entrance fee is 9 euro. The exhibition closes June 2.

## Fathers Day in Italy

Festa del Papa', *Father's Day*, is celebrated on March 19 here in Italy.

## Folk concert

In the town of Vo' di Brendola, province of Vicenza, Irish folk singer Cara Dillon will perform in the community hall in this small town March 15.

She will be accompanied by Sam Lakeman on keyboard, James O'Grady on pipes and whistles and Ed Boyd on guitar.

The show starts at 9 p.m. and entrance fee is 12 euro.

## Medieval event

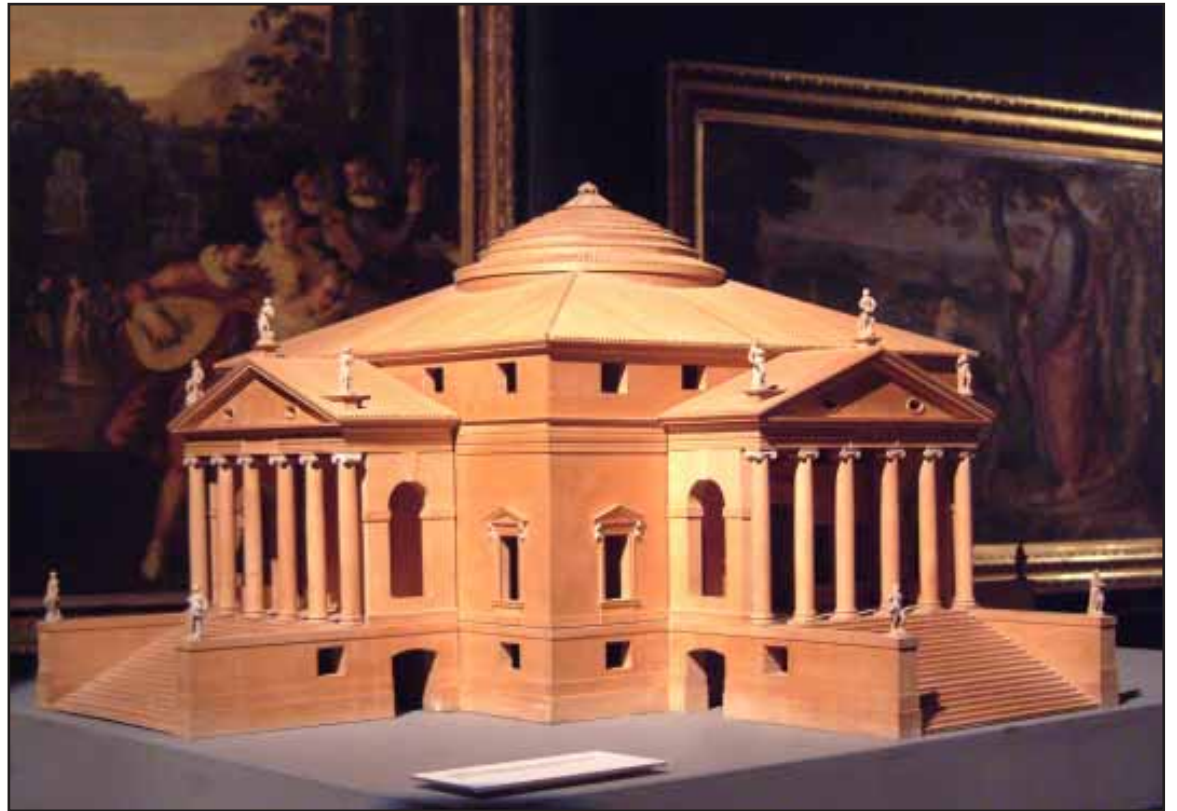
March 16 in the Castle of Bevilacqua, in the province of Verona, there will be a medieval event in the castle gardens at 10:30 a.m.

There will be fire-eaters, knights, bowmen, musicians, fortune-tellers, jesters, a medieval encampment and a medieval market.

Children and adults can also participate in different games such as a bow and arrow competition, duels and rides on ponies.

Castle gates open at 10 a.m. and tickets cost: adults: 7 euro; children 4-8 years old pay 3 euro; no charge for children under 4 years old. No reservations are needed for this event.

At 12:30 p.m. there is a medieval lunch, with knights, dancers and musicians in attendance, cost is adults 35 euro, children 4 to 8 years old 20 euro, under 4 free, reservations are mandatory, call 0442-93-655/649521.



Visit the exhibition in Palazzo Barbaran da Porto, downtown Vicenza located on *Contra Porti*, to see wooden models of Andrea Palladio's works. Open Tuesday-Thursday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday-Sunday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Entrance fee 2 euro. Above is a wooden model of the Villa La Rotonda, below is a detail of the frescoed ceiling of one of rooms located in the palace. (Photos by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)

## How to read Italian wine labels

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

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

**DOCG** – This label certifies that the wine has been produced under strict government regulations and indicates its area of origin. The extra G at the end of this labeling term is intended to signify a wine of guaranteed high quality. These wines are usually of the very best quality and command premium prices.

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

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

**Vino da Tavola** – *Vino da tavola* refers to table wine.



## Now Showing

### Caserma Ederle Theater

<b>March 12</b>	The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep (PG)	6 p.m.
<b>March 13</b>	One Missed Call (R)	6 p.m.
<b>March 14</b>	The Pirate Who Don't Do Anything (G)	6 p.m.
	The Great Debaters (PG13)	9 p.m.
<b>March 15</b>	College Road Trip (G)	3 p.m.
	The Great Debaters (PG13)	6 p.m.
<b>March 16</b>	One Missed Call (R)	3 p.m.
	The Pirate Who Don't Do Anything (G)	6 p.m.

### Camp Darby Theater

<b>March 13</b>	Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R)	6 p.m.
<b>March 14</b>	Vantage Point (PG13)	6 p.m.
<b>March 15</b>	The Great Debater (PG-13)	6 p.m.
<b>March 16</b>	The Pirate Who Don't Do Anything (G)	2 p.m.

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

## Movie Synopsis

**ONE MISSED CALL** - *Shannyn Sossamon, Edward Burn*. Beth Raymond is traumatized when she witnesses the gruesome deaths of two friends days apart. She knows that both of them had received chilling cell phone messages- recordings of their own horrifying last moments. The calls were received days before they died, but each death occurred precisely when and how the messages foretold.

**THE PIRATES WHO DON'T DO ANYTHING: AVEGGIE TALES** *Phil Vischer, Mike Nawrock*. Three lazy misfits - very timid Elliot (Larry the Cucumber), lazy Sedgewick (Mr. Lunt) and no self-confident George (Pa Grape) - dream of the day of putting on a show about pirates. With their own problems of might not having this dream come true, they soon find themselves traveling back in time into the 17th century and begin a quest to rescue a royal family from an evil tyrant, and learn about being pirates.

Hello! I am back!

Marketplace

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

new look • new categories • new login required

## Army Emergency Relief kick-off

Army Emergency Relief Campaign kicks off March 17, 2 p.m. in the lobby of Davis Soldier and Family Readiness Center, with opening remarks by USAG Vicenza commander Col. Virgil S.L. Williams.

Refreshments will be served. Call ACS 634-7500.

## Eggstravaganza, free barbecue

Hoekstra Field is the place to be March 22, at 1 p.m. for Eggstravaganza. Children can participate in a candy egg hunt, craft activities, bounce house, and a visit from the Easter bunny.

FMWR hosts a free barbecue at the new B.O.S.S. lounge afterward. Call 634-5087 for details.

## Adult dance classes

Adult dance classes are offered Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 11-April 3, from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Cost is \$56.

An advanced class is available Wednesdays for \$28.

Classes are held in the Body Shop fitness studios. Register at Soldiers' Theatre 634-7281.

## Auto Skills closure

Auto Skills Center will be closed for staff technical training from March 17-20. We will resume normal operating hours March 21.

## EEO manager needed

The EEO Office is recruiting for collateral duty Special Emphasis Program managers to assist with identifying and analyzing barriers to employment and career advancement for minorities, women and the disabled and sponsoring career enhancement activities.

Individuals must have their supervisor's approval and will receive formal training. Call Cynthia Pierson, EEO officer, 634-7976.

## Red Cross events

March is Red Cross month and volunteer orientation is held the first Tuesday of every month.

*Health & Safety courses:*

March 15: Free Babysitter's Training, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

March 29: Adult CPR and First Aid, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sign up for these classes at the American Red Cross office, DSFR, Rm 47, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Call 634-7089 or 0444-71-7089 from off post. An emergency communications caseworker can be reached 24/7.

## Intercultural spouses program

Join other spouses to learn more about the different cultures that make up our Army family. Next meeting is March 21, 10 a.m.-noon, in Davis Soldier and Family Readiness Center. Call 634-7500 for reservations.

## Rome express trip

This ITR trip leaves at 1 a.m. on March 29. Spend the day seeing all the great sights of Rome and then board the bus for the late night trip home arriving back 3 a.m. the following morning. Call 634-7094 to book.

## Italian, belly dancing, chili, more at USO

**Italian Level One class.** March 18-May 15. Learn Italian with this nine-week course. No prior knowledge needed. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Course cost is \$112 plus 10 euro for the book.

**Belly dancing** classes held every Wednesday at the Body Shop from 7-8 p.m. Cost is \$10 a class or \$35 for a month.

**Chili cook-off.** Bring in your best chili recipe to our cook-off and win a basket of goodies provided by Capitol Motors. Sign up starts April 1, at the USO. The cook-off will be held on April 19, at 1 p.m.

## MOMS Club events

**Exercise:** Walk the Track. Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., track, weather dependent

**Easter party and egg hunt:** March 19, 11 a.m.

**Park Day:** March 28, 10 a.m.

**MOMS Club monthly meeting:** March 31, 10 a.m. at the chapel

For more information regarding MOMS Club and activities email momsclubofvicenza@yahoo.com or call Deanna at 0444945105 or Amber at 3347008443.

## See clearly now

In May of 2000, the U.S. Medical Command implemented the Warfighter Refractive Eye Surgery Program. This program provides free eye surgery to Soldiers who meet specific criteria.

In support of this program, SETAF will continue to authorize permissive TDY for Soldiers eligible for the WRESP.

Call Lt. Col. Robert Unger at 634-7965 for details.

## Ed Center Term 4 schedule

UMUC registration begins March 28. Classes run March 31-May 24.

For details contact UMUC at 634-7055 or 0444-7170 from off post, e-mail: [vice@ed.umuc.edu](mailto:vice@ed.umuc.edu).

## ACS survey

The Army Community Needs Assessment has been developed by the experts at Cornell University and is being given to military Families all over the world.

They need your input to help develop and improve programs that will make military life easier and more satisfying.

During March and April, you will see the survey at various events and venues on the post including the PX every Friday 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Call ACS for information 634-7500.

## St. Paddy's Day Party

Club V celebrates St. Patrick's Day early with green beer and a Guitar Hero tournament, March 15, 8 p.m. Call 634-7685 for information.

## After school clubs

Kids join School Age Services for after school clubs each week and explore your special interests. Mondays kids council for grades 5 and 6, focuses on leadership and home-alone skills, Tuesdays is Spanish dance club, Wednesdays deployment club, Thursdays gardening club and Fridays is fine arts, photography, and health and fitness club.

Youth must be registered with CYS. Call 634-8253 for details.

## Talent show

CYS is sponsoring a Youth and Teen Talent Show March 17 and 18. If you sing, dance, act, read poetry, do magic or gymnastics, or if you and your pet have a special trick, sign up now at the Middle School Program, the Teen Center or CYS Central Registration.

The Youth Show is for ages 6-12 and the Teen Show is for ages 13-18.

Deadline to sign-up is April 4. Call CYS at 634-7266 for details.

## Call US numbers toll-free

The Defense Information Systems Agency has implemented an interface between the Defense Switched Network and the public switched telephone network that

allows users to access toll-free numbers (area codes 800, 866, 877, and 888) on the PSTN through the DSN for authorized purposes.

To obtain access to the interface, the user must:

\*Dial 809-4-OFF-DSN (809-463-3376).

\* Wait for a second dial tone.

\* Dial the toll-free number, including "1" (for example, 1-800-123-4567).

More information is available at [www.disa.mil/gs/dsn/809\\_service.html](http://www.disa.mil/gs/dsn/809_service.html).

## Robin Hood auditions

Missoula Children's Theatre, a professional children's theater group, works with children ages 6-17 to perform a full musical production.

Auditions are March 31, 3:30 p.m. at Soldiers' Theatre.

Rehearsals will be after school 3:30-7:30 p.m. Children must be free of other commitments during this time frame. For details call 634-7281.

## Hot Wings special

Hot Wings are just 25 cents each every Sunday in March at Club V.

## Texas Hold'em tournament

Cash prizes for the top three players at the Texas Hold'em tournament sponsored by Club V, March 22. Sign up begins at 5 p.m.

## Mantua with ITR

Mantua is a beautiful historic city surrounded by lakes. Enjoy a lunch of the city's famed Tortellini, March 26. Call ITR for reservations at 634-7094.

## Adige River ride

Ride along the beautiful Adige River from Mori to Mattarello with Outdoor Rec. This all-level ride departs ODR at 11:45 a.m. March 29. Call 634-7453 for reservations.

## Parco Faunistico Cappeller Trip

CYS heads to Parco Faunistico Cappeller (wild animal park) for a special deployment field trip, March 29, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Cost is \$28.50 which includes park entrance, regular hourly care and a sack lunch.

Deployment care cards can be used for the hourly care portion. Trip is for all SAS ages, CYS-registered children.

Call 634-8253 for information.

## Job opportunity

There is an immediate full-time opening at the TRICARE Service Center in the Vicenza Health Center for a TRICARE Medical Service coordinator.

For details regarding the position and qualifications, go to the Web site: [www.saic.com](http://www.saic.com).

## DFAC Hours for March 23

South of the Alps Dining Facility will serve a special breakfast meal March 23 in conjunction with the Chapel's community sunrise service.

Hours of operation for March 23 are: Breakfast 8-9:30 a.m., lunch 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and dinner 5-6:30 p.m.

## Religious activities

### Caserma Ederle Chapel

For details regarding any of these services or events, or for information concerning our other activities, call the chapel at 634-7519 (0444-71-7519).

### Chaplain Crisis Line:

To speak with a chaplain after hours call **634-KARE** (634-5273).

### Saturday services

4 p.m.: Sacrament of Reconciliation, or by appointment  
5 p.m.: Vigil Mass

### Sunday Services

9 a.m.: Roman Catholic Mass  
9 a.m.: Protestant Sunday school and AWANAs (Sept. thru May in Vicenza High School)  
10:45 a.m.: Catholic religious education (Sept.-May in Vicenza High School)  
11 a.m.: Protestant worship  
1:30 p.m.: Full Gospel Pentecostal worship  
4 p.m.: Lutheran worship  
6 p.m.: Contemporary Christian worship

### Monday

Noon: Weekday Mass  
3:05 p.m.: Middle School Club in the high school cafeteria. (Sept. - May)  
5:30 p.m.: High School Club in the Teen Center. (Sept.-May)  
For details contact Jocelyn Cary at 634-7890 or 349-385-3476 or [vicecb@yahoo.com](mailto:vicecb@yahoo.com).

### Tuesday

9 a.m.: Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC)

### Wednesday

Noon: Weekday Mass  
Noon: Protestant Men of the Chapel (PMOC) Bible study (at DFAC)  
Noon: LDS Study  
5:15 p.m.: PWOC evening bible study

### Thursday

9:15 a.m.: Catholic Women of the Chapel (CWOC)  
Noon: Weekday Mass  
5:30 p.m.: Gospel service choir rehearsal  
7:15 p.m.: Gospel service Bible study

### Friday

Noon: Weekday Mass  
Noon: Muslim Khutba and prayer

### Faith group POCs

**Islamic** POC is Mohamed Noeman at 634-6306.  
**Jewish** POC is Dr. Stephen or Nancy November at 328-054-9709 or [november6@msn.com](mailto:november6@msn.com).  
**Latter Day Saints (LDS)** POC is Dr. Matt Ghiz at 349-500-7989.

### Darby Chapel

For details call the chapel at: 633-7267 (50-54-7267).  
8:30 a.m.: Catholic Reconciliation  
9:30 a.m.: Catholic Mass  
11 a.m.: Protestant worship

### Upcoming events

Jewish Sabbath get together for services and meals at the Novembers. Also, on the evening of Thursday, March 20, the reading of the Megillah of Esther will take place for the holiday of Purim.

## Get in the know with AFN radio

AFN "The Eagle" 106FM on your dial, or channel 142 on your AFN decoder is the place to get local information on a daily basis. Radio guests include experts from the Vicenza Health Center, Outdoor Recreation, Army Family Team Building, the USO and more.

Upcoming guests include:  
March 12: George Hanby, Vicenza High School wrestling coach in the 7 a.m. hour.

March 12: Chapel Chat in the 8 a.m. hour.

March 12: Lt. Col. Keith Forsyth, Provost Marshal in the 5 p.m. hour.

March 14: Child and Youth Services in the 8 a.m. hour.

**March 19: USAG Vicenza commander, Col. Virgil Williams will talk about issues concerning the community.**

Every Monday in the 7 a.m. hour, Rose Holland of AFBT and Army Family Advocacy Program talks about events. She's followed in the 9 a.m. hour by Linda Lorenzana of the USO.

Tuesday morning line up includes Raymond Hernandez from Preventive Medicine and Peggy Schadler, who knows what's happening with FMWR activities.

# Disparing over dollar's demise? Budget travel still standing

Story and photos by Diana Bahr  
USAG Vicenza Public Affairs

Despite the dollar sinking to new lows against the Euro, it's still possible to take advantage of living overseas.

Thanks to budget airlines like Ryanair, Easy Jet and Vueling, weekend jaunts to London, Paris, Seville and other cities are still within reach. But there are pros and cons to flying cheap; budget airlines often use remote airports and you have to take a shuttle bus or train into town. Plus, the airline may only have one flight daily to or from your chosen destination.

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

Check airline's Web sites often as the truly good deals come and go quickly. Most airlines have a subscription service where you are notified of specials that don't appear on their Web site.

For instance, Barcelona-based carrier Vueling ([www.vueling.com](http://www.vueling.com)) had insider-only specials my husband and I took advantage of in January. We were able to fly to Paris and back for less than \$75 each.

Plus, Vueling flies out of Venice Marco Polo airport, meaning we were able to take advantage of low-cost, long-term parking at a nearby satellite lot.

Sometimes, the later you make your plans, the cheaper the seats. Being flexible with your dates, times, and airports to fly out of helps.

One Internet search brought up a site: [www.whichbudget.com](http://www.whichbudget.com). Click on "I want to fly from..." or "I want to fly to..." Unlike Expedia, you don't book tickets directly from their Web site, it simply lists cities and which budget airlines serve them.

Luggage can be another challenge. The budget airlines are stricter about weight limits and many airlines have begun restricting carry-on items.

Take the time to read the airline's Web site information about carry-on luggage restrictions and checked baggage costs and restrictions.

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

Many budget airlines have strict check-in times and being late to check in could cost you your vacation. Most airlines state that you have to be there at least 40 minutes early – and they mean it. Don't forget to factor in the



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

time it may take to get from the parking lot to the check-in desk.

The main airports most of us fly from include: Venice Treviso – [www.trevisoairport.it](http://www.trevisoairport.it); Venice Marco Polo – [www.veniceairport.it](http://www.veniceairport.it); Verona Valerio Catullo Airport – [www.aeroportoedelgarda.it](http://www.aeroportoedelgarda.it); and Milan Bergamo – [www.orioaeroporto.it](http://www.orioaeroporto.it).

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

Two long-term lots just a few minutes away from Venice Marco Polo airport are Brusutti and Marco Polo 2002.

With Marco Polo 2000, you should make a reservation in advance as it's a smaller lot than Brusutti's and fills up quickly.

Both lots charge less than what you would pay at the airport and have free shuttle service to the airport.

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

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

Expedia may be one of the most recognized

names in travel, but often I've gotten a better rate through the hotel's Web site. However, Expedia's rates are in dollars, and you are charged immediately upon booking your room. With the dollar's continued slide against the Euro, it may be cheaper to book through Expedia – where you know what rate you're locked in at.

My rule is – if the hotel doesn't have photos of its rooms online, keep searching.

Another way to get a feel for a hotel is through comments made on some travel sites such as: [www.tripadvisor.com](http://www.tripadvisor.com), or [www.venere.com](http://www.venere.com).

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

During a recent visit with family members, we were able to rent an apartment in Rome for about half of what three rooms would have cost.

One advantage of renting an apartment is you are able to make your own meals if you wish, and you have space to hang out in if the weather is bad or you're tired.

Another way to save money is to check out tourist passes. If you know what museums and attractions you are interested in, see if discount passes are sold.

For example, the *Paris Carte-Musee-Monuments* gives you unlimited access to many museums and monuments and best of all, you don't have to wait in line.

Again, the Internet is a great way to find out what types of discounts various cities offer to tourist.

While the Internet is a valuable tool, don't forget to ask friends and co-workers about



This is just one of several statues of the Roman goddess Diana that graces the Louve.



Paris' lively Monmartre area has been home to famous and not-so-famous artists for years. Tourists flock to this picturesque district where they can watch artists work on their creations and purchase original works.

travel tips, hotels and the post library has a terrific travel section.

Don't rule out using train travel – a recent special on Trenitalia offered overnight sleeper trains to Prague for 118 euro roundtrip per person, much less than recent airfares.

Regardless of what you pay for travel, safety is always an issue.

Don't wear flashy jewelry, use hidden money belts for passports and identification and, while one of us is getting our luggage or tickets, the other person stands guard.

If you're riding a crowded bus or subway, be wary of pickpockets.

And remember that force protection is not just for the office – it carries over to vacations, too. Be aware of your surroundings, and who is watching you while you are sightseeing.

Buon viaggio.