

THE CITIZEN

Vol. 38, No. 15

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

August 20, 2009

Serving the Greater Stuttgart Military Community

Postal platoon Soldiers deliver themselves home

By Larry Reilly

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

For 15 months, 17 Soldiers from 3rd Platoon, 566th Postal Company, delivered thousands of pounds of mail through three different Army Post Offices in the region of Baghdad, Iraq. However, their last delivery may be their most memorable, as it was the one that brought them back to Stuttgart on July 29.

Family, friends and fellow Soldiers welcomed back the platoon members as they filed into the Panzer Kaserne Fitness Center, bringing an end to a

deployment that began back in May 2008.

“As a group, you did an amazing job of moving mail in a very tough environment. You handled more than 20,000 pounds of mail during the holiday season alone,” said Maj. Nicole Heumphreus, 29th Transportation Battalion commander, as she addressed the returning Soldiers. “Reintegration can be simple, but take your time to reintegrate back with family and friends, and then take care of each other as you go through the process.”

See *Postal* on page 4



Birgit Thompson

Sgt. Daryl Thompson greets his wife, Ines, and son, Jaden, 2, after serving a 15-month deployment with the 3rd Platoon, 566th Postal Company, in Iraq.

Green Beret gave life ‘leading his brothers in combat’

By Maj. Jim Gregory

Special Operations Command-Europe Public Affairs Office

On Aug. 4, the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), paid their respects to Chief Warrant Officer 2 Douglas Vose during a ceremony at Panzer Kaserne Chapel.

Vose died from wounds received during combat operations on the afternoon of July 29, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

“His detachment [Special Forces Operational Detachment-Alpha 0114] had been tasked to move into the area to determine a



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Douglas Vose

suitable polling location for the upcoming national elections,” said the Task Force 10 commander.

As the combined Afghan and U.S. element moved into the Uzbun Valley, a known hot spot for insurgent activity, they decided to clear the area on foot. Vose volunteered to clear the low ground, where the enemy laid in wait.

“Doug’s element immediately returned effective fire, but he knew that they needed to quickly maneuver on the enemy, and he was on the ground physically leading his men when he was hit,” added the TF-10 commander.

His men called for an air medevac, and the helicopter arrived quickly, performing his extraction while the area was still receiving enemy fire. He died as a result of his wounds, even after the heroic actions of the pilots. The coalition element killed numerous enemies, including four high-ranking enemy commanders.

Vose, who was 38 at the time of his death, entered the Army in April 1989. He later attended the SF Qualification Course, graduating in 1999 as a communications sergeant. In 2006, he completed the Warrant Officer Basic Course. For much of his final deployment, he served as the liaison officer between Combined Joint Task Force 82 and Task Force 10, the 1-10 SFG(A) headquarters element.

“I needed someone whom I trusted in that position,” said the TF-10 commander, “someone of high quality to interface with the CJTF in Bagram, and Doug was that man, but he desperately wanted to get back onto the ground with his men. When I told him to report back to his detachment, no one could suppress the smile on his face.”

Vose was back with his team for less than a week before he was killed. “Doug gave his life for his brothers, and for that alone, he is a hero,” said Lt. Col. George Thiebes, the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) commander.

“But he also gave his life for a greater cause: to ensure that the Afghan people could participate in the democratic process of governance and thus influence their own future — politically, socially and culturally. He will not be forgotten,” he said.

The Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group, rotate regularly into Afghanistan to support the International Security Assistance Force mission.

“Chief Vose believed in this mission,” said Thiebes. “He died leading his brothers in combat, and he fought to be with them. I have no doubt that some of them are alive today because of his actions.”

Vose is survived by his wife, Nicole; sons, Aidan and Connor, and daughters, Sharon and Noel, as well as his mother, Paulette.

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Theatre workshop spotlights creativity

Children and teens in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart expressed themselves through their own play during the Summer Theatre Workshop.



Page 10-11

Stuttgart schools receive make overs

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart schools underwent more than \$2 million in improvements and renovations this summer.



INSIDE
THIS
EDITION

Why shouldn't the Pentagon ban smoking in the military?

Commentary by **Brittany Carlson**
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Although the Pentagon announced mid-June that it would not ban tobacco in the military as of yet, according to the Associated Press, my question is, 'Why not?'

An Institute of Medicine study commissioned by the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs in early June revealed the depth of the tobacco problem in the military: one in three active-duty military personnel smoke, leading to poor health, decreased readiness and a high cost for the DoD — \$1.6 billion per year to care for service members with tobacco-related illnesses.

In response, the Committee on Smoking Cessation in Military and Veteran Populations proposed a complete ban on tobacco within the military, and I think they're right.

The part of the ban I most agree with is this: it's gradual. In fact, it's more like a withdrawal. The Institute recommended that the DoD phase out smoking over a 20-year period by stopping the sale of tobacco products in military commissaries (or raising the price to equal that of tobacco on the economy), and treating tobacco use like it does alcohol abuse.

Service members won't have cigarettes ripped from their mouths or have to quit cold turkey.

The major part of the plan is to prohibit smoking upon entry into the service, both for officers and enlisted Soldiers. If service members are trained not to start, they won't miss smoking. They won't have

If service members are trained not to start, they won't miss smoking. They won't have to deal with the impaired fitness, vision and hearing loss that smoking can cause ... They won't have to suffer in years to come from lung cancer or pulmonary disease.

to deal with the impaired fitness, vision and hearing loss that smoking can cause, according to the study. They won't have to suffer in years to come from lung cancer or pulmonary disease.

And the extra \$1.6 billion the DoD will save? I'll let you use your imagination to come up with some good ideas for that.

Service members who smoke may feel that their smoking habits are their own personal rights. I would argue that they gave up their personal rights when they joined the service. Banning smoking is not very different from restricting alcohol use or mandating drug abuse counseling.

They may add that smoking relieves stress. So do drinking and drugs for many people, but those are not allowed

either. Service members work so hard to defend our country, they deserve to have a stress reliever that won't kill them in the long run. (For ideas, enroll in one of the smoking cessation programs provided to service members free of charge.)

In the military world, so many regulations exist to keep service members healthy. It's amazing that smoking has flown under the radar for so long. The proposed ban is a way of bringing the military into a new age of health and smoking awareness, and, in the end, saving the precious lives of our service members.

CORRECTION

In the story on the Strong Beginnings pre-kindergarten program in the July 23 issue of *The Citizen* ("New pre-K program focuses on academics, self-help" on Page 5), we wrote that Smith expects to have about 10 certified teachers. The story should read "Smith expects to have about 10 trained teachers."

THE CITIZEN

Col. Richard M. Pastore

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander

Public Affairs Officer

Editor

Larry Reilly

Susan Huseman

lawrence.reilly@us.army.mil

susan.huseman@us.army.mil

Assistant Editor

Culture and Leisure

Brittany Carlson

Birgit Thompson

brittany.carlson1@eur.army.mil

birgit.thompson@eur.army.mil

Contact Information

Telephone: 431-3105/civ. 07031-15-3105

Fax: 431-3096/civ. 07031-15-3096

E-mail: stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil

Web site: www.stuttgart@army.mil

Office Location: Building 2949, Panzer Kaserne

U.S. Army Address: Unit 30401, APO AE 09107

German Address: USAG-S PAO, Panzer Kaserne,

Geb. 2949, 3rd Floor, Panzerstrasse, 71032 Böblingen

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ON THE STREET

What are you looking forward to this school year?



Sorren George, 10

"New people so I can make new friends; also, being able to hang out with old friends."



John Zapata, 12

"The lockers. This is probably the first time we get lockers [since we're starting sixth grade]."



Catherine Krahling, 13

"I'm looking forward to classes. I get to do 'Honors' this year."



Samuel Mozano, 6

"The games, running in place [in gym class]."



Cassidy Grover, 8

"Learning about science."



Kyler Carlson, 12

"Meeting new people and hopefully making new friends."



Isabella Armstrong, 8

"My friends."



Chase Stokes, 14

"Sports: football, baseball, wrestling. I'm excited."



Angelo Jasper

Soldiers of Company B, 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), stand in formation following a valor award ceremony in which two received the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device and four received the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device. Three other Soldiers also earned the Bronze Star for valor.

Two days of hell, nine men of valor

By Master Sgt. Donald Sparks

Special Operations Command-Europe
Public Affairs Office

On two separate days in April, members of Company B, 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), were engaged in hostile enemy action, resulting in nine of its members receiving valor awards.

Staff Sergeants Steven Hurt and Jason Lebeau each were pinned the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device and Staff Sergeants Daniel Devlin, Juanmanuel Mata, John Lewis and Christopher Smith were decorated with Army Commendation Medals with "V" device during a ceremony held July 29 at Panzer Barracks. Devlin also received a Purple Heart.

Three other team members not present at the ceremony who also earned the Bronze Star for Valor were Sgt. 1st Class Jason Dryden, Staff Sgt. Kenneth Powell and Staff Sgt. Keith Waller. Waller also received a Purple Heart.

Day one – April 3, 2009

The team was partnered with a Romanian Special Forces detachment and was called to assist two platoons from the 10th Mountain Division to capture a senior-level insurgent hiding in a compound.

By the time they arrived, the enemy had fortified its position within the compound, emplacing crew-served weapons and strategically positioning fighters to defend against the assault.

"Within five minutes we were taking pretty effective fire from the insurgents. Waller and four of the Romanian soldiers were immediately hit," said the detachment's team sergeant. "Incredibly, Waller kept up the fight until the medics pulled him away."

At that point, Hurt, one of the team's communications sergeants, realized that he needed to reposition to make contact with the air medevac. After just completing an assault against the enemy position, he again exposed himself to enemy machine gun fire enroute to establishing communications.

"Staff Sergeant Hurt is one of my most aggressive Soldiers — a shooter first," the team sergeant said. "He was one of the first guys up on that roof, and he knew when it was time to pull out of the fight to get satellite communications and relay information on

the ground situation."

As the enemy continued its attack on their position, Smith, Dryden and Powell continued to treat the injured soldiers, also putting themselves at serious personal risk.

Day two – April 17, 2009

The team, partnered with an Afghanistan National Army platoon, a squad of Soldiers from 3-71st Cavalry Regiment and a Romanian Special Forces team, were preparing to conduct a deliberate detention operation of an insurgent commander and improvised explosive device facilitator.

The team sergeant described the situation as the "worst timing" for the men, as they were already physically and emotionally spent after clearing five insurgent compounds during the previous 24 hours.

The enemy had an elevated position and watched as the men entered a narrow alleyway before opening fire and inflicting life-threatening wounds on two of the 3-71st cavalry Soldiers. The enemy also launched a rocket-propelled grenade in the alleyway, with fragments of the grenade penetrating the edge of Devlin's helmet and lacerating his head.

"I knew I was dinked, but it was nothing serious," Devlin said.

While receiving direct small arms fire, the Special Forces Soldiers began giving immediate first aid care to the wounded Soldiers and placed seven tourniquets on one of them, eventually saving both his life and limb.

Both Mata and Lebeau would take turns providing suppressive fire against the enemy, while also taking turns giving critical care by applying direct pressure to stop the bleeding.

The team sergeant, who was separated from his men, attributed the many hours of first aid cross-training his Soldiers conducted before their deployment for saving the lives of the two wounded Soldiers. He added that every man is confident enough to do some part of every other man's job on the team.

Summing up the actions of all the men on those two nights, Devlin said, "If any one member of our team had not been there, it could have been so much worse. Everyone played a vital role and everyone made a difference."

Ask a JAG

Editor's Note: Do you have a question you would like to see answered in a future edition of The Citizen? If so, contact "Ask a JAG" at aaron.lancaster2@eur.army.mil.

By Capt. Aaron L. Lancaster
Stuttgart Legal Center

Q: *Traveling around Europe, I have come across things that are legal in the local area (marijuana, prostitution and Cuban cigars) but are illegal in most of the United States. As a service member, am I allowed to engage in these activities while in Europe?*

A: As an American service member, you are not allowed to engage in the above conduct while stationed in Europe. Like any American visiting a country outside of the United States, you are required to follow the laws of the local country. Unlike civilians* though, as a service member you must also follow the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) while serving under *Title 10* status. Those under *Title 10* status include all active duty personnel, activated reservists (typically anything beyond drill weekends and training), and members of the National Guard while serving in a federal capacity under presidential executive order.

If you fall under *Title 10* status, it is important to note that the UCMJ is borderless and follows you everywhere you go. This means that Article 112a (drug-related offences) and Article 134 (prostitution and solicitation) of the UCMJ are just as punishable for your conduct in Amsterdam as they are for your conduct in Atlanta. As a result, American service members are not allowed to buy, sell, or use marijuana or engage in prostitution or solicitation while traveling around Europe.

For those that may still engage in these activities due to the lack of Military Police presence throughout Europe, remember that you may still pop hot on a drug test in Stuttgart for drugs you do elsewhere, and that soliciting prostitution dramatically increases your likelihood of catching a sexually-transmitted disease.

In Germany, as in most of Europe, Cuban cigars are legal to buy, possess and smoke. While not a specific UCMJ violation, Title 31, Part 515 of the Code of Federal Regulations makes illegal the purchase of Cuban origin goods, including tobacco and alcohol products. Unlike most United States laws, which are not enforceable for conduct in a foreign country, Part 515 prohibits any individual, military or civilian, wherever located, who is a citizen or resident of the United States, from purchasing, transporting or importing any merchandise if such merchandise is of Cuban origin or is made or derived in whole or in part from any article which is grown in Cuba. Thus, in the case of cigars, it is illegal for Americans to buy cigars in Europe that were manufactured in Cuba or were manufactured from tobacco grown in Cuba.

* DoD civilians can engage in certain activities and not others, depending upon security clearance and contractual terms.

This column is not intended as individual or specific legal advice. If you have specific issues or concerns, you should consult a judge advocate at 421-4152/ civ. 0711-729-4152.

Postal

Continued from page 1

Downrange, the 3rd Platoon Soldiers provided postal services at Forward Operation Base Falcon, Union III and Camp Liberty. If Soldiers could not get to their APOs, the postal Soldiers delivered the mail to them by way of helicopter, fixed wing aircraft, vehicle convoy and even shuttle bus.

“It was a long deployment, to say the least, but our jobs kept us busy all the time,” said Sgt. Daryl Thompson. “And a fringe benefit to our job downrange is that you’re everyone’s friend when you have mail in your arms.”

However, on July 29, the only things Thompson wanted in his arms were his wife, Ines, and their two-year-old son, Jaden.

“Getting that first hug and kiss from him was total disbelief that turned into total happiness,” said Ines. “It was like all the worries I had during his entire deployment were released, and I could actually breathe again.”

As the platoon melted into the sea of friends and family, they knew that everything would change once again, since the 566th no longer existed.

“We are the last remaining Soldiers of the once proud 566th Postal Company,” said Sgt. 1st Class Rowena Warshawsky, platoon sergeant for 3rd Platoon, who participated in the company’s deactivation ceremony on Aug. 5 in Mannheim. “Some of us will retire from the Army, some will ETS and the others will PCS to different units, but we will all remember our 15-month deployment with the 3/566th.”



Birgit Thompson

Members of 3rd Platoon, 566th Postal Company, stand in formation as they are welcomed home July 29.

Motorists urged to use caution

By Susan Huseman

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

With students returning to school Aug. 31, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart officials urge motorists to use caution.

“Children are not always aware of their surroundings and assume that drivers will stop for them,” said Hans Dreizler, the garrison safety officer. “Youngsters may also dart into the road without looking first for traffic; that’s why it’s important for vehicle drivers to exercise extreme caution during the period when school begins.”

The morning commute period is between 7:15-8:30 a.m., according to Art Richard, the deputy director of Emergency Services for the garrison. The school dismissal period is between 2:30 and 2:40 p.m., followed by the commute.

The speed limit on Stuttgart installations is 30 kilometers per hour; in school zones the limit drops to 10 kph.

Military Police will regularly patrol school zones as part of their normal duties and will conduct random radar operations for school zone violations, said Richard.

Commuters can expect increased foot traffic as children walk or ride bicycles to school. Morning slow-downs at installation gates, because of school buses, can also be expected.

VFW adopts 554th MPs, families during deployment

Story & photo by Brittany Carlson
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

In the midst of waiting for their loved ones to return from a year-long deployment to Afghanistan, families of the 554th Military Police Company were given some relief Aug. 8 in the form of a complimentary day at Europa Park.

Free tickets and transportation to the park were provided by the United Service Organizations and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10810 Stuttgart, which adopted the 554th MPs on May 15.

The rides and shows not only provided entertainment for about 38 spouses and children, but gave them a chance to make friends and spend a day away from home.

“It was something different,” said Bahar Moyle, a spouse who helped come up with the Europa Park idea. “I thought from the beginning it would be a really good time to get away and not think about [the deployment].”

One goal of the adoption is to keep morale high among family members, which helps keep deployed Soldiers from worrying about them, said Jacob Urban, VFW post commander for the 10810.

Trips like this also foster a community among the families of the deployed, said Lt. Daniel McCarey, 554th MP Company Rear Detachment commander. “I think it brings spouses closer together.”

The adoption also helps the Soldiers in Afghanistan, since the VFW sends care packages. “We find out what they need down there that they can’t physically get,” Urban said.

In the future, the VFW plans to hold a dinner for family members of the 554th MP Company, Urban said. It will also host a redeployment party for Soldiers and family members when the Soldiers return next year.

“Being a veteran, I know how some of these guys feel,” Urban added, recalling his time as a Soldier in the Vietnam War. “I spent my time in combat. I wish they had something like that when I was [serving].”

Urban said that the unit adoption lasts as long as the unit is active, and can include anything the Soldiers or family members need.

“It’s important that we support our community here,” Urban said. “One of the big ways we support it is by doing things like this.”



Sylvia Allen, 554th spouse, looks on as Jacob Urban, VFW 10810 post commander, pretends to feed her son, 3-year-old Vaun, to a shark at Europa Park.

Europe AFAP issues forwarded to Army

Installation Management Command-Europe Public Affairs Office

Two issues originating from garrison Army Family Action Plan conferences in Europe will be forwarded to the Department of the Army's AFAP for inclusion into its annual conference January 2010 — and possible implementation service-wide.

Gen. Carter Ham, commander of U.S. Army in Europe, approved the issues for DA-level consideration as part of the Europe AFAP Steering Committee meeting held here July 17, when 14 concerns were reviewed.

The recommendations going forward are:

- Allow discretionary use of military spouse preference when applying for permanent federal jobs.

- Allow restricted reporting for military family members, Department of Defense civilian employees and other DoD identification cardholders who are sexual assault victims.

Under the Army's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program, only active duty Soldiers retain the option of restricted reporting, which does not trigger an investigation or command involvement. It was noted during a U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza, Italy, AFAP conference that others in the community — family members and civilians — are

not afforded the same opportunity.

In an information paper that went to all participants of the USAREUR steering committee, it was noted that "the risk of public knowledge and retaliation affects the number of reported cases, decreasing the number of those who seek treatment, thereby adversely affecting the Army's overall mission.

"The restricted reporting option," the paper stated, "allows victims to come forward and seek medical treatment, a forensic exam and counseling services without triggering an investigation ... thus minimizing the stigma experienced by most victims of sexual assault."

"Frankly, I was astounded when I heard about this difference in the reporting of a crime that is so devastating to victims," Ham said. "It needs to be changed."

As for spousal preference, military spouses currently are not permitted to choose when and if they invoke such status when applying for permanent federal employment. During the application process, spouses are automatically listed MSP eligible, and when the wife or husband of a service member accepts or declines their first job opportunity, MSP is lost.

This issue was brought up during an AFAP conference at USAG Schinnen, Netherlands, where it was noted that the

inability to selectively use MSP hampers the financial and professional goals of military spouses.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of AFAP, which has brought about 107 legislative changes, 154 policy changes and 173 improved programs or services, including:

- Increased military annual leave carry over
- Expanded Exceptional Family Member Program respite care
- Creation of the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Program
- Establishment of Military Thrift Savings Plan
- Authorized dental and vision insurance coverage for federal employees

The latest approved AFAP issue is the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, which went into effect Aug. 1 and is the biggest military educational benefit since World War II. Under this bill, service members' spouses and children may be eligible for education benefits.

"It is this type of result that makes the Army Family Action Plan such a worthwhile endeavor," said Jane Helfrich, chief of Installation Management Command-Europe Army Community Service. "The people involved with AFAP help to ensure the standards of living in the military keep pace with changing times."

AFC survey calls for input

Installation Management Command-Europe Public Affairs Office

Community members of U.S. Army garrisons across Europe can now express their opinions about programs and services in their garrison to senior Army leadership officials through an online survey.

This survey, which opened Aug. 15, allows military community members to express their opinions about anything related to the Army Family Covenant.

The survey will gauge community satisfaction with all aspects of Covenant-related programs and services: health care; housing; youth services; single Soldier programs; family and morale, welfare and recreation, and other quality-of-life programs.

The survey takes only a few minutes to complete, and can be accessed from any computer at www.armymwr.com/fmwr/AFC/survey.htm.

Practicing a fire escape plan — with Plan B — could save lives

Installation Management Command-Europe Public Affairs Office

If your fire escape plan consists of simply running out the front door of your apartment or room, it may not be a good enough plan. One reason why is that the front door may be blocked by fire and the stairway not accessible.

Having a well-prepared fire escape plan, which includes a 'Plan B,' could save your life, according to Sigurd Mack, Installation Management Command-Europe fire protection specialist.

"The fact is that the majority of Soldiers and family members live in multi-story apartment buildings and quarters that only have one stairway. If a fire rendered that door non-usable, where is the next safe way out? In this case, apartment doors are fire-rated, so rescue by the fire department through a window is the second way out," Mack said. "It's important for people — particularly as we observe the Army's fire safety campaign — to really think these issues through."

Mack said that occupants in barracks, Army family housing or leased quarters should all become familiar with existing evacuation procedures. In living quarters not regulated by Army policy or in off-post locations, people should develop evacuation plans by following some basic guidelines:

- Draw a floor plan with at least two ways of escaping every room.
- Choose a safe meeting place outside the house.
- Practice alerting other households.
- Practice evacuating the building blindfolded — the smoke from a fire will most likely make it



In case of fire, have a well-prepared escape plan.

impossible to see.

- Practice staying low to the ground when escaping. Stay close to a wall; count the number of doors on your way to the stairwell.

- Practice checking all doors before opening them. If the door is hot, seal yourself in for safety. Smoke from a fire is toxic and deadly, no matter what kind of structure you live in.

- In the event of a fire, if stairwells are filled with smoke, stay in your apartment or room and wait for the firefighters. Apartment doors will protect you from the fire.

- Call the fire department to report your exact

location, and gather in a room with a window to await their arrival. European addresses may be a challenge to remember. Place a flyer with information containing street/installation/building number and city next to your phone.

- Close all doors between you and the fire. Use duct tape or wet towels to create a seal around the door and over air vents in order to keep smoke from coming in.

- If possible, you should open your window so fresh air can get in. Don't break the window — if smoke enters the room from outside the building, you won't be able to protect yourself.

- Wave a flashlight or light-colored cloth at the window to let the fire department know where you are located.

- When traveling, familiarize yourself with your way out of the hotel, using the same steps.

"It's important to emphasize that the intent of the escape plan is to ensure everyone gets out safely," said Mack. "After getting out — don't go back in."

Also, Mack said that it is recommended that people program their cell phones or carry a piece of paper in their wallet or purse with the number to military emergency services agencies such as the fire department or Military Police.

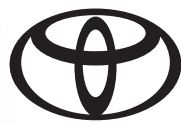
If people must call the fire department from a military phone, dial '117'; if using a civilian phone (including mobile phones), dial the commercial prefix to call the military fire department. The individual IMCOM-Europe U.S. Army garrison emergency phone numbers can be found on local garrison Web sites at: www.imcom-europe.army.mil/sites/installations/garrisons.asp.

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VBS blends bayou theme with Bible message

By Brittany Carlson

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Learning about God doesn't have to be boring, according to the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Religious Support Office. Bible lessons can come in the form of a song, a game or even a snack.

And so they did during the garrison's Crocodile Dock Vacation Bible School this summer.

Preschool and elementary school students learned scripture verses in a "bayou" with the help of animal characters like Blossom the Possum and Chatter



Birgit Thompson

Leia Generally (left), 9, dances with the other children at the Robinson Barracks VBS in August.

Chipmunk. The week-long camp was held on Patch Barracks in July and, for the first time, on Robinson Barracks earlier this month.

"The kids get more excited every day," said Jim Sciegel, one of the garrison directors of religious education. "It gave parents a way of knowing that children can enjoy going to a church event."

On Patch Barracks, 250 children from Patch, Kelley Barracks and Panzer Kaserne attended, along with 140 volunteers, and on Robinson Barracks, 70 children and 60 volunteers participated.

Each day, the children learned a new Bible theme, such as "God is with us" and "God gives us new life," which was incorporated into every activity, from a Swamp Stomp song and dance to a video and craft.

"I like the songs we sing and the opportunity to praise Jesus," said Leia Generally, 9.

At the end of the camp, families of participating children were given a Crocodile Dock music CD.

"[Parents] enjoyed that children came home excited, happy and energized by the day," Sciegel said.

While the point of VBS was to give children a summer vacation experience with a Christian perspective, the school also had other benefits, Sciegel added.

The program brought together members of different denominations, as well as new arrivals to the garrison.

"New people coming in have the opportunity for their children to meet new friends, [to] prepare them in time for the school year," Sciegel said. Parents and volunteers could also build networks.

Drew Penrad, 15, volunteered for the Robinson Barracks VBS. "This is a way for me to give some-



Birgit Thompson

Volunteers lead children in worship songs at the "bayou" during the Patch Barracks VBS in July.

thing to the community," he said.

The children's excitement made Sciegel's time commitment worthwhile. "When they have smiles on their faces and thank you on the way out, it's worth it," he said.

Editor's Note: Birgit Thompson, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office, contributed to this story.

Summer Theatre Workshop lets students tell their story

By Brittany Carlson

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

It's a world without any rules, where you can be anyone you want. It's where make-believe becomes real life.

This summer, it was a chance for more than 50 Stuttgart children and teens ages 8-18 to take the spotlight and tell their story.

The annual Summer Theatre Workshop, part of the Stuttgart Theatre Program, ran for two-week sessions in both July and August at the Kelley Theatre. For the first time, instead of working on a script, children and teens were given another assignment: to write their own play.

"I'm passionate about kids being able to break free," said Barb Heidt, Kelley Theatre production assistant and workshop facilitator. "Theater gives you a chance to kind of break the rules. You can be mean, you can be angry ... you can be somebody you're not allowed to be in real life."

Of course, training was required.

During the nine-day workshop, Heidt taught the students how to project their voice to the audience, stay visible on stage and other technical aspects of theater. Students also learned how to bring productions to life with sound, lighting and costumes.

Improvisational games helped break the ice and get ideas flowing, Heidt said. In a game called "The Blob," one child tried to decipher who they were supposed to be based on how another child interacted with them. The acting students also practiced showing their emotions instead of talking about them.

"It makes [you] yourself grow," said Andrew Lewis, 15. "You can be less shy. You can get out there and work on communication skills."

The students also practiced group storytelling, and even had a day of acting in slow-motion.

"What I really like about theater is that we can express ourselves in different ways," said Clarissa Messer, 11. "You can show your emotions. It's fun."

The students' final play was the most rewarding, Heidt said.

In each session, both the 8- to 12-year-olds and the 13- to 18-year-olds produced their own play. They created characters who, like themselves, faced cliques at school, went on first dates, dealt with family issues and searched for acceptance, Heidt said.

"Because it came from them, they were able to present something they were related to," she added. "It moved me."

For more photos, visit www.flickr.com/photos/usagstuttgart. For more information, call 421-3258/civ. 0711-729-3258.



Ron Paoletti

Kendall Haase, 9 (from left), Christopher Dollesin, 11, and Esther Swehla, 11, perform a play they wrote during the July Summer Theatre Workshop session.

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Garrison Change of Responsibility ceremony on Aug. 21

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart will hold its Change of Responsibility ceremony for Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Barbary Aug. 21 at 10 a.m. on the Panzer Kaserne parade field in front of Building 2949.

For more information, call 431-1320/civ. 07031-15-1320.

Esso fuel ration card outage scheduled for Aug. 22

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service will have a scheduled system outage that will affect the Esso Fuel Ration Card System Aug. 22 from 10 p.m. to Aug. 23 at 6 a.m.

Between these hours, customers in Germany will not be able to purchase fuel on post or use their fuel ration card at local Esso stations. AAFES will not be able to issue new fuel ration cards during this time.

Stuttgart Select Soccer holds team tryouts Aug. 29-30

Boys and girls from 9 to 19 years of age are invited to try out for Stuttgart Select soccer teams. The tryouts will be held Aug. 29-30 at the Panzer Local Training Area soccer fields.

Registration will be conducted Aug. 29 from 8:15-8:45 a.m. for player born in 1999 and 2000; noon to 12:30 p.m. for those born in 1997-1998; and from 3-3:30 p.m. for those born in 1991 to 1996. There will be a \$5 administrative fee for each player. Players are asked to bring a soccer ball and must have shin guards.

For more information, e-mail stuttgartsoccer@yahoo.com.

Visitors to Germany can drive sponsor's car

U.S. ID cardholders can obtain authorization for visitors (from the U.S. or outside of Germany) to drive their USAREUR-plated vehicles during visits in Germany for up to 90 days.

The sponsor will need to bring the visitor's passport, visitor's international driver's license issued in the U.S., registration for the vehicle being operated and military ID card to the Customs Office. The sponsor will then receive a form which authorizes the visitor to drive the sponsor's USAREUR-plated vehicle. However, only the sponsor is authorized tax-free fuel.

For more information, contact the U.S. Customs Office on Panzer Kaserne, Building 2913, at 431-2657/civ. 07031-15-2657.

Stuttgart community blood drive set for Sept. 16-17

The Armed Services Blood Program will host a Stuttgart Community Blood Drive Sept. 16 from 9 a.m. to 3p.m. in the Kelley Barracks Fitness Center, and on Sept. 17 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Patch Fitness Center.

To register and schedule a donation, visit www.militarylifeforce.mil.

For more information, call 430-4224/civ. 0711-680-4224.

Bazaar needs volunteers

The German-American Women's Club of Stuttgart seeks volunteers for the annual Pfennig Bazaar Oct. 16-17. Proceeds from the bazaar support a variety of German and American organizations, such as the Stuttgart Boy Scouts, Red Cross, Fisher House Foundation and other causes.

Volunteers are needed to set up on Oct. 15 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and work the event from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. The bazaar will be held in the Liederhalle, Berliner Platz 1-3, Stuttgart.

For more information call Lisa Croteau at civ. 0151-5821-4828 or 0712-795-7235 or e-mail lisa.croteau@yahoo.com.

SCSC hosts 'Welcome Social'

The Stuttgart Community Spouses Club will hold a welcome social Sept. 15 at 6 p.m. in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks.

For more information, send an e-mail to president.scsc@googlemail.com.



'I want to ride my bicycle'

Brian Tingey (from left) and son, Kyler, 13, finish the 10-mile Mountain Bike Excursion hosted by Child Youth and School Services and Outdoor Recreation, along with Bruce Zabukovic, recreation assistant at Outdoor Recreation. The excursion, which circled the local training area around Panzer Kaserne, was one of several activities provided to military children in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart this summer.

Brittany Carlson

Parenting class

Army Community Service's Parenting with Love and Logic classes will be held Aug. 25, and Sept. 1 and 8 from 10-11:30 a.m. at ACS, Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne.

For more information, call 431-3362/civ. 07031-15-3362.

ACAP hiring counselor

The Army Career and Alumni Program seeks a part-time counselor for the Stuttgart ACAP Office on Panzer Kaserne. Applicants must have a master's degree. Contact darla.huck@us.army.mil to submit a resume. For more information, call 370-7545/civ. 06221-57-7545.

Red Cross class

The Stuttgart American Red Cross will offer a Spanish language first aid/CPR class Aug. 29-30 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Register at the Red Cross office, Building 2915, on Panzer Kaserne.

For more information, call 431-2812/civ. 07031-15-2812.

Theatre hosts auditions

The Stuttgart Theatre Center will hold auditions for Ken Ludwig's "Moon Over Buffalo" Sept. 1-2 at 7 p.m. in the Kelley Theatre, Building 3320, on Kelley Barracks.

A free, pre-audition workshop on acting in a farce will be held Aug. 30 at 2 p.m. in the Kelley Theatre. For more information, contact the theatre center director, Richard Roberts, at 421-3258/civ. 0711-729-3258.

TRICARE office moves

The TRICARE Enrollments Office will be moving from Panzer Kaserne to the Stuttgart Health Clinic on Sept. 3. The new phone number will be 430-4190/civ. 0711-680-4190.

AAFES Family Fair

AAFES will host a Family Fair Aug. 29 from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the



Susan Huseman

Fair honors furry friends

Kimberly Langley's Sugar Glider, Yoda, wins a trophy for cutest pet at the Stuttgart Veterinary Treatment Facility's Pet Fair Aug. 8. For more photos, visit www.flickr.com/photos/usagstuttgart.

Panzer Mall. The fair will include a performance by the Stuttgart Gospel Choir, wine tasting, Karaoke contest, fashion show, and Clinique skin care clinic. For more information, call Tammy Krome at civ. 07031-20-42108.

Free USO lunch Aug. 26

The United Service Organizations will offer a free lunch Aug. 26, and on the last Wednesday of each month, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the USO's kitchen.

Spill response exercise held

The Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division will host a spill response exercise Sept. 2 at Kelley Barracks and Stuttgart Army Air Field and Sept. 3 at Panzer Kaserne. This on-site training is mandatory for representatives from garrison tenant

organizations. For more information, call 431-6130/civ. 07031-15-6130.

Town hall meeting Aug. 27

The next U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Town Hall Meeting will be held Aug. 27 at 6 p.m. in the Patch Theater on Patch Barracks.

MOPS program restarts

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Religious Support Office will sponsor the Mothers of Preschoolers program once again this fall. MOPS provides support to mothers of children from birth to kindergarten. Free child care is provided during the meetings.

MOPS meets from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month in the Panzer Chapel Fellowship Hall and the Patch Religious

Education Center. The first meeting will be held Sept. 16. For more information about the Patch group, contact Kate at kdbenji@yahoo.com; for more information about the Panzer group, contact Courtney at jccmsensenig@yahoo.com.

Bank opens later Aug. 26

The Stuttgart Community Banks will open later Aug. 26 because of training. The Patch Barracks bank will be open from 1-4 p.m.. The Panzer Kaserne and Kelley Barracks banks will be open from 1:30-4 p.m.

Learn about Stuttgart

Learn about German culture, language and public transportation at the Stuttgart Newcomers Orientation. Classes will be held Aug. 25 and 27, Sept. 8 and 10, and Sept. 22 and 24. Tuesday classes are held from 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday classes are from 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Participants must register with Army Community Service.

For more information, call 431-3362/civ. 07031-15-3362.

Health fair on Sept. 11

The Stuttgart Army Health and Dental Clinics, in association with the Wellness Center, will host a Health Fair Sept. 11 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Wellness Center on Patch Barracks.

The Wellness Center and Physical Therapy Department will also host open houses during this time.

Representatives from the health and dental clinics, Optometry, EDIS, Physical Therapy, Wellness Center, Dietician Services, TRICARE, Suicide Awareness, Case Management, Behavioral Health and Public Health offices will be on hand.

For more information, call Capt. Rosemary Wosky at the Wellness Center at 430-7322/civ. 0711-680-7322.

C.A.R.E. Fair brings agencies, organizations under one roof

By Susan Huseman

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

It's never easy settling into a new community. That's why if you're new to the Stuttgart Military Community, the Aug. 20 C.A.R.E. Fair should be on your list of things to do.

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Community Activities, Registration and Education Fair, set for Aug. 22 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Patch Fitness Center, offers community members the opportunity to learn about the various programs and services available to them.

More than 80 agencies and organizations will be represented, from the German American Community Choir to Child, Youth and School Services, according to Danielle Denis, the Information, Referral and Follow-Up Program manager for Army Community Service.

Newcomers may feel lost during their transition, according to Denis. "They need a starting point. The C.A.R.E. Fair is an opportunity for them to get information, network, meet people and feel comfortable about being here," she said.

Visitors to the fair will be able to learn about official resources, such as banking facilities and the Utility Tax Avoidance Program, as well as leisure options such as local Boy and Girl Scout troops, the Black Forest Quilt Guild and the Patch Ski Club. They can also enroll and register for activities.

There will be numerous door prizes, giveaways and demonstrations. Following the fair, a community flea market will be held from 4-6 p.m. in the Patch Fitness Center.

For more information, call Army Community Service at 431-3344/civ. 07031-15-3344.

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Welcome back, students!

Summer renovations put new face on local schools

Story & photos by **Brittany Carlson**
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

This summer, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart schools received more than \$2 million in make overs, from new flooring to the completion of a fire escape.

Most of the improvements are courtesy of the Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe Heidelberg District, which Stuttgart joined in October.

Besides numerous renovations, including new flooring, roofing, playground upgrades and fresh paint, each school also received upgraded land area networks for the main computer system.

Two major improvements were completing the phased fire escape project at Böblingen Elementary School and renovating Robinson Barracks Elementary/

Böblingen Elementary/Middle School

- expanded cafeteria
- completed fire escape
- new paint in school interior, including 80 percent of classrooms
- replaced flooring in 12-15 classrooms
- upgraded computer labs

Patch Elementary School

- new paint on the interior
- plans for upgraded playground
- replacement roof
- plans for additional security cameras
- upgraded interior stairs

Robinson Elementary/Middle School

- new fall-protection tiles on the playground
- new flooring, painted walls and ceiling in the multi-purpose room
- new PVC flooring in several classrooms in place of carpeting to prevent allergy issues (a DoDDS mandate for all classrooms)
- new paint on entire school interior
- new kindergarten playground installed
- remodeled nurse's office, middle school music suite, consumer education and science classrooms
- upgraded computer classroom, including new paint and flooring
- relocated and remodeled computer lab
- remodeled main bathrooms on ground floor and first floor

Middle School, said Bill McGann, facilities manager for the Heidelberg District. "Bringing RB up to the level of the other [schools], we did massive improvements there for specialty projects," he said.

Dale Moore, BEMS principal, was most excited about his school's expanded cafeteria (which includes space from a previously adjacent classroom). "We've come close to doubling the size of the cafeteria, so it will be a lot nicer for the kids," Moore said. "We'll be able to offer a better lunch service for our kids — it's not so crowded."

The high-impact improvements at Patch High School include four new portable classrooms, funded by European Command and managed by the garrison, and a new evacuation route with an emergency elevator, said Thomas Whitney, assistant principal. "The portables will allow for better [teacher to student] ratio ... more physical classrooms and less roving teachers," he said.

"The new evacuation route will be a significant change because of the safety factor," he added. The new route will create a smoother path for pedestrians to leave the two-story building on both levels, as well as provide an outdoor elevator for wheelchair access.

Patch Elementary School received several housekeeping improvements this summer and is scheduled to receive upgrades to the outdoor playground. The old playground often becomes muddy because it lies on a hill, said Bob Allen, principal. "Now we're going to try to plan it so that it has low-lying fences directing children into certain avenues that will be padded, such as the swing set and jungle gym."

All of the facility improvements are important to the Stuttgart community, McGann added. "Everything we touched was something that was integral to parents, students [and] teachers," he said.



[Above] A worker prepares a crane to move dirt from the area in front of Patch High School, near a recently-removed tree stump. The area was renovated to make room for a new emergency evacuation route, which includes an outdoor elevator. [Left] A worker paints part of the newly-installed fire escape at Böblingen Elementary/Middle School on Panzer Kaserne. The fire escape project's final phase was completed this summer.

Patch High School

- new evacuation route in front of the schools, to include emergency elevator, in progress
- four portable classrooms (funded by EUCOM)
- floor replacement in the boys' locker room
- upgraded Reserve Officer Training Corps room, including a new ceiling and new paint
- partial roof, ceiling replacement at main entrance

Follow bus rules for safe rides

By **Bill Harvin**
USAG Stuttgart Student
Transportation Office

Summer vacation is almost over, and a new school year is right around the corner. For many Stuttgart community students, the trip to and from school will be aboard a Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe contracted school bus. The safe and secure transportation of students is of highest concern for DoDDS-E, local garrison officials and school administrators.

Procedures are in place to make the bus ride as uneventful as possible. However, parents and students play a critical role in making the daily bus ride safe. To ensure students are aware of proper behavior on the bus, here are 10 basic bus safety rules parents should discuss with their children before the first day of school.

- Always obey the driver or adult on the bus.
- At the bus stop, wait three steps away from the curb. Enter and exit the bus safely, and always show the driver your bus pass. Take three

steps away from bus when exiting.

- Never cross the street in front of or behind the bus.
- Stay properly seated and use seat belts when available.
- Keep your hands, feet and other body parts to yourself.
- Do not throw objects on the bus or out the window.
- Talk quietly, and do not disturb the driver or other students.
- No profanity, indecency, smoking, prohibited items or vandalism.
- No eating, drinking, or chewing gum on the bus.
- Be responsible and safe.

Parents can take the following steps to help get their child ready for the bus ride:

- Look at and know your children's route to and from the bus stop.
- Use hands-on instructions to show

children how to get safely to and from the bus stop.

- Review the 10 bus safety rules with your children. Follow up and reinforce the rules.

Good behavior and safety go hand-in-hand.

- Report safety concerns immediately to the school administrator or the school transportation office.

Remember, bus transportation is a privilege, not a right or entitlement. A student's misbehavior will result in disciplinary action, to include temporary or permanent suspension of bus privileges.

Welcome back to school, and please, do your part to make the bus ride safe and enjoyable.

The Stuttgart Student Transportation Office (formally known as the School Bus Office), is now located in Room 217, Building 2307, on Patch Barracks. For more information, call 430-8497/civ. 0711-680-8497 or visit www.eu.dodea.edu/transportation.



School contacts

Aug. 31: First day of school

Patch High

430-7191/civ. 0711-680-7191

Principal: Susan Page
Asst. Principal: Thomas Whitney
Nurse: Marci Boswell
Registrar: Marian Nee
Parent Teacher Organization: Ralph Menzel (civ. 07156-17-99656)
School Advisory Committee: Martin Harrison (430-7475)

Aug. 28: Newcomer Orientation
Aug. 28-30: Senior pictures (by appointment)

Sept. 4: Open House, 11:10 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.

Patch Elementary

430-5200/civ. 0711-680-5200

Principal: Robert Allen
Asst. Principal: Ron Lathrop
Nurse: Karen Antonucci (430-4030)
Registrar: Adriana Shelley
Parent Teacher Association and School Advisory Committee: Carmen Richardson (civ. 0711-2070-8657)
Aug. 24-25: New Family Orientations, 10 a.m. or 3 p.m.
Aug. 28: Classroom assignments posted at close of business
Sept. 4: Kindergarten Open House, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Sept. 10: Open House, 5:30 p.m.

Robinson Elementary/Middle

420-7112/civ. 0711-819-7112

Principal: Michael Johnson
Asst. Principal: Dr. Gloria Yokley
Nurse: Debra Whitney (420-6362)
Registrar: Peggy Masset (420-7363)
Parent Teacher Association: Tamyla Abraham
School Advisory Committee: Mary Shelly
Aug. 27: Student Orientation, 10 a.m. for elementary grades, 1:30 p.m. for sixth grade
Aug. 28: Student Orientation, 10 a.m. for seventh grade, 1:30 p.m. for eighth grade

Böblingen Elementary/Middle

431-2715/07031-15-2715

Principal: Dale Moore
Assistant Principal: Toufy Haddad
Nurse: Sheryl Hancock (431-2774)
Registrar: Michelle Lapierre (431-2923)
Parent Teacher Association: Tina Bradley (bulldogpta@gmail.com)
School Advisory Committee: Karen Taylor
Aug. 28: Open House, time to be determined
Aug. 28: PTA barbecue, 3-6 p.m.

New GI Bill offers service members more education benefits

By Staff Sgt. Patricia Deal

U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs Office

Soon, pursuing their education goals will be easier for many U.S. Army Europe Soldiers, thanks to the new Post-9/11 GI Bill that applies to schooling on or after Aug. 1. The Bill provides the most comprehensive educational benefits to service members since the original bill was signed into law in 1944.

Eligible service members may receive full tuition and fees, a new monthly housing stipend and an annual stipend of up to \$1,000 for books and supplies, for up to 36 months of education benefits, generally payable for 15 years following release from active duty.

To qualify for benefits, individuals must receive an honorable discharge; must have at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after Sept. 11, 2001, or have been discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days, according to information on the Department of Veterans Affairs Web site. Reservists and National Guard members who have been activated for more than 90 days since 9/11 will have access to the same GI Bill benefits.

What makes the Post-9/11 GI Bill different from the other GI Bill programs is that tuition and fees are paid directly to the school. The maximum rates the Post-9/11 GI Bill can pay by law are based on the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition fees, and rates vary from state to state. For more details, visit the VA Web site.

But, attending higher-cost private colleges or universities is not out of the question with the Bill's "Yellow Ribbon



Spc. Ida Tate

Pfc. Charlysa Mclean, a supply specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 7th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, participates in a University of Maryland business administration class at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, June 16. Under the new Post-9/11 GI Bill, Soldier-students will soon have access to a greatly expanded array of education options.

Program," designed to further help GI Bill participants meet all tuition costs. Colleges and universities in the program have agreed to waive or offset up to 50 percent of those higher tuition costs, and VA will match this additional funding for eligible students. VA officials say more than 1,000 schools signed on to the program as of mid-July.

Yet another way the new Bill helps offset the financial burden of pursuing an education is by paying eligible full-time students a monthly housing allowance, which is currently based on the Basic Allowance for Housing for a

Soldier in pay grade E-5 with dependents at the location of the school.

"It has been a long time since we've had an education initiative that includes tuition fees [and a] housing allowance [and] takes care of all of the requirements required to go to school," Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki said.

No doubt the most heralded feature of the new GI Bill is participants' ability to transfer unused educational benefits to their spouses or children. The DoD announced the policy earlier this year and established criteria for eligibility and the transfer of benefits June 23.

As long as they qualify for and meet specific service requirements, any enlisted or commissioned member of the armed forces serving on active duty or in the Selected Reserve on or after Aug. 1 will be eligible to transfer their benefits, according to officials.

"I have not seen this much excitement before about education benefits programs. There are so many good aspects to this bill, [which] truly appears to have addressed the issues facing service members seeking to fulfill their education goals," said John W. Bush, director of education for the Army Installation Management Command-Europe.

VA officials say flexibility is also crucial to the transferability benefit, as the policy gives service members the option to use some benefits themselves and transfer what they haven't used to one or more family members.

"The important thing to remember is that this is one of several programs we administer, all of which have different eligibility criteria," said Keith Wilson, the VA's director of education, in a department press release. "The program that is best for the individual veteran is not always going to be the Post-9/11 GI Bill."

Wilson encouraged service members interested in using Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits this fall to contact the VA soon to determine their eligibility.

For more information, visit www.gibill.va.gov, www.veteransbenefitsgibill.com, or www.defenselink.mil/home/features/2009/0409_gibill.

Eligible service members can register their family members for benefits at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB>.

Quick hire of military spouses for federal jobs starts in September

By Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

Under a personnel rule that takes effect next month, some military spouses could be quickly hired for federal jobs without going through the usual competitive process.

The new hiring authority takes effect Sept. 11.

The main goal of the rule, according to documents listed in the Federal Register, "is to facilitate the entry of military spouses into the federal civil service as part of an effort to recruit and retain skilled and experienced members of the armed forces and to recognize and honor the service of members injured, disabled,

or killed in connection with their service."

"Military spouse employment is a key to the quality of life of our military families," said Kathleen Ott, director of talent acquisition, development and management in the Office of the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Civilian Personnel Policy.

The availability of jobs for military spouses contributes to the sustainment of the all-volunteer force, Ott said, citing a recent survey in which employed military spouses reported that their work income constitutes about 48 percent of total family income.

"But, it's really hard to keep a job if you have to move from station to station," Ott said. Federal employment, she said, offers military spouses a portable career with transferable benefits and worldwide presence.

Eligible individuals, Ott said, include spouses of active-duty service members who have been called on to relocate. This includes spouses of Guardsmen or reservists who've been called up for more than 180 days of active service other than training. Eligible spouses must be moving to another duty station accompanied by their service member husband or wife.

Spouses of former service members listed as 100-percent disabled and separated or retired, as well as widows or widowers of service members who died on active duty and who have not remarried, are also eligible.

The new hiring authority does not constitute a hiring preference for eligible military spouses, according to OPM. Applicants still must meet specific job-qualification criteria listed for individual positions.

Spouses who complete three years of continuous satisfactory service will be converted from a career-conditional appointment to career appointment, Ott said.

Personnel officials do not anticipate that the new military-spouse hiring authority would adversely affect the hiring of military veterans into the federal government, Ott said.

Military spouses can find out about federal job opportunities through OPM's USAJobs Web site.

The new hiring authority "sends a very important message to our military families that their sacrifice is recognized by the federal government, and that they recognize that having a career opportunity is really critical for their family's well-being," said Barbara Thompson, director of the Pentagon's Office of Family Policy/Children and Youth.

More than 77 percent of military spouses have indicated in surveys that they are interested in establishing careers, Thompson said. "I think it's a win-win situation that the federal government is accessing a pool of spouses who have the same levels of commitment and caring and service to the nation."

Military spouse employment is a key to the quality of life of our military families.

Kathleen Ott

Director of Talent Acquisition,
Development and Management

Vice says mental health more than stopping suicides

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

The Army must go beyond preventing Soldier suicides, and take a look at addressing other symptoms of a force struggling with eight years of persistent conflict, said the service's vice chief.

During his testimony July 29, before the House Armed Services military personnel subcommittee, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli told lawmakers the Army is concerned with not only suicides, but also acts of violence, increased use of alcohol, drug abuse, infidelity and reckless driving.

"We've been at war for nearly eight years," Chiarelli said. "That has undeniably put a strain on our people and our equipment. Unfortunately, in a growing segment of the Army's population, we have seen increased stress and anxiety manifest itself through high-risk behavior, including acts of violence, excessive use of alcohol, drug abuse, and reckless driving."

In the most extreme cases, however, Soldiers commit suicide. And the Army has seen an increase in Soldiers taking their own lives. In 2008, 140 Soldiers in the active-duty Army took their own lives. That puts the 2008 active-duty suicide rate at 20.2 per 100,000 — the highest ever for the Army and, for the first time, higher than the civilian rate.

In order to better understand the rise in suicides, the Army asked the National Institute of Mental Health to study its causes in the ranks. The study commissioned by the Army will focus on behavioral health, psychological resilience, suicide risk, suicide-related behaviors, and suicide deaths across the active and reserve components.

Chiarelli told lawmakers he thinks limited time at home between deployments is one cause of stress for Soldiers and families and that increasing dwell

... we must improve the resiliency of our Soldiers and their family members.

Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli
Vice Chief of Staff of the Army

time is a solution.

"I think the thing that would give us a leg up on this, that would help us out so much, is to increase the amount of dwell time that our Soldiers have at home," Chiarelli said. "There is no doubt in my mind that this reduced dwell time is causing a tremendous amount of stress on the force, on Soldiers, and on families. And I have to believe the NIMH will identify that early as one of the stressors that is affecting us."

Chiarelli also told lawmakers the Army has several initiatives to improve the psychological wellness of Soldiers.

"Secretary of the Army Pete Geren and Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. George Casey consciously made the decision to expand our efforts to improve the overall behavioral health and well being of the force," Chiarelli said. "Ultimately, we want to get left of this very serious problem. And to do so we must improve the resiliency of our Soldiers and their family members. In the past, the Army's approach was primarily reactive. That has changed today — it is, in fact, proactive."

Part of that proactive approach to Soldier well-being is the Army's Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program, Chiarelli told legislators. The program is meant to begin for Soldiers in basic training and continue throughout their career.

In a written testimony to the Congress, Chiarelli

wrote that the CSF program is designed to raise "mental fitness" to the same level the Army considers physical fitness.

"We recognize people come into the Army with a very diverse range of experiences, strengths and vulnerabilities in their mental as well as physical condition," he said. "Studies have shown that mental and emotional strength are just as important as physical strength to the safety and well being of our Soldiers."

Chiarelli said he believed that there is an uptick in substance abuse problems in the Army as a result of ongoing stressors on the force. The Army has responded to that with an increase in substance abuse counselors, and recently, a pilot program at one installation to allow Soldiers to self-identify for alcohol abuse without the knowledge of their command.

"We've set up special hours — after-duty hours on Saturdays and Sundays — where these appointments can be made. A Soldier who self-refers can go in and get the care and counseling he needs and hopefully head off a problem before we end up in the reactive mode," Chiarelli said. By the end of August, he added, the pilot program will be expanded to three installations.

The Army is also looking at a Web-based program to deliver care to Soldiers, Chiarelli told lawmakers. A special "Web-Care" program would provide "online 'real-time' counseling via video, e-mail, live chat, or instant messaging."

The general also said part of helping Soldiers is making it permissible for them to help themselves — that means changing the culture so Soldiers are not ashamed to seek out mental health care. Chiarelli said recent assessments in theater have shown more Soldiers are willing to seek out mental health care without the concern that it is perceived as weakness or that it will affect their careers.

"We are committed to getting the message out to Soldiers that it is okay to get help," Chiarelli said. "We are making progress."

EFMP respite care offers military families valuable rest periods

By Rob McIlvaine
Army News Service

For Army families who are responsible for regular care of persons with disabilities, the Exceptional Family Member Program Respite Care Program provides a temporary rest period for caregivers.

The EFMP puts respite care in place when needed for eligible families of active Army, and active Army National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers.

Sharon Fields, a program manager for Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Command Respite Care Services, said the Army hopes to inform families worldwide about respite care opportunities.

"Our primary goal is to ensure consistency and continuity of our respite care program, regardless of where our Soldiers and families are located," Fields said. "Special needs care is around the clock. When a family has a special needs child or adult, respite care provides a break for the primary caregiver."

Families can apply for the Respite Care Program at the nearest Army

Community Service EFMP office. Eligibility for the program is based on EFMP enrollment and the medical or educational condition of the family member requiring care.

Qualifying families are eligible to receive up to 40 hours of funded EFMP respite care monthly for each certified family member and can receive up to \$45 per hour for care.

During fiscal years 2007 and 2008, FMWRC received \$8.2 million in supplemental funds for EFMP respite care. In FY 09, respite care has been included in the base operating funds for ACS and is no longer funded by supplemental funds.

The Army Installation Management Command published revised guidelines for use of FY 09 EFMP respite care funds June 11, to further standardize and expedite service delivery Army-wide. The guidelines became effective Aug. 3.

For more information, call the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Army Community Service at 431-3326/civ. 07031-15-3326.



Jason L. Austin

Tracy Jarvis, a respite care provider, wipes the mouth of a child during a lunch-time outing to the Patrick Henry Village Burger King in Heidelberg.

Konstanz offers history and charm at the Riviera

Story & photos by Birgit Thompson
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

The Bodensee (Lake Constance) town of Konstanz is often referred to as the 'German Riviera,' with its palm trees and inviting waterfront.

Konstanz, once known as the center of trade with the southern countries, survived World War II due to its history, and attracts many tourists today.

However, the charm of the town is in more than its centuries-old buildings.

Konstanz is the largest German city on the southern shore, touching the Swiss town of Kreuzlingen on one side and bordered by the Rhine River inlet on the other.

The city is home to one of the most traveled harbors of the Bodensee, the largest lake in Germany. The harbor features sailing trips to Friedrichshafen, a 46-minute journey that visitors of all ages will enjoy.

Visitors may also choose to take a more leisurely boat ride in one of the

smaller charter boats that are available, complete with a knowledgeable skipper.

The historic part of town, called Paradise, is held in high regard by its inhabitants, according to Henry Gerlach, city tour guide. He explained that Konstanz survived World War II with the help of Kreuzlingen.

During the war, the two cities decided to keep their lights on during the night, making it virtually impossible for the Allied pilots to distinguish between German and Swiss soil, and resulted in Konstanz's preservation.

The region's most narrow building is located in a small alley of the old town. The Wage ("scale") dates back to the year 1273 and is nestled between two houses, measuring only 9 feet in width.

Since the original old city is intact, many small shops and coffee bars have become historical venues to explore. In addition, small flower shops and second-hand boutiques offer a variety of unique items for sale.

For shoppers looking for more modern goods, Konstanz also features the Lago, a modern shopping mall, located next to the train station.

Not far from the Lago is one of the eight Sea Life Centers of Germany. Here, visitors can discover how life in the region developed above and below the water. The center shows the beginnings of the lake, dating back to the ice age, and includes a glacier that visitors can touch.

Children can observe the world



The Konstanz harbor displays an old lighthouse and the Imperial statue.

of Nemo, the sting ray basin and the aquarium tunnel, which gives visitors a feeling of walking underwater.

Once visitors have seen the city, shopping mall and Sea Life Center, they may

want to take a swim in one of the many lake-side public baths, free of charge.

For more information, visit www.konstanz.de and www.sealife.de.



Tour guide Henry Gerlach explains how Konstanz survived World War II with the help of neighboring Kreuzlingen.

Take the Onkel Otto challenge

One of the best kept secrets in the Stuttgart region is the restaurant Onkel Otto (Uncle Otto) on the Wangener Höhe, not far from the TV tower.

The restaurant follows the ongoing XXL portion fad that has spread throughout Germany in the last few years. Onkel Otto is the only XXL restaurant of its kind in Stuttgart, with the XXL Monster Schnitzel (four pounds of pork) for less than €20 as its specialty.

For more information, visit www.onkel-otto-stuttgart.de. For a list of XXL restaurants in Germany, go to <http://xxlfood.de/restaurants-von-a-bis-z>.

For appetites less than monster-sized, try Onkel Otto's classic schnitzel (under €8) — even it covers a platter-sized plate.

Susan Huseman



MILITARY MOMS...



...a photographic project which tries to show the situation of female soldiers who also are mothers.

In the US Military, the female career soldier has this option. The way these professional soldiers handle this way of life is just admirable.

The show opens on September 17th at 18:00 at the Deutsch-Amrikanisches Zentrum- James F. Byrnes Institut at Charlottenplatz 17 in 70173 Stuttgart (www.daz.org)

Opening hours: Tues-Wed-Thu - 14:00 to 18:00 hrs

Check out the FIND-IT GUIDE online!

www.finditguide.de

Wine festivals take visitors on journey for tastebuds

Local festivals

• **Aug. 21-23 — Bretten — Festival of good deeds**

• **Aug. 21-24 — Erlenbach — Original wine festival**

This cozy wine festival is located at the Marktplatz.

• **Aug. 21-24 — Markgröningen — International music festival**

This festival features a fun fair and beer tent at the Festplatz.

• **Aug. 21-23 — Ostfildern — International fire works festival**

This annual festival takes place in the Scharnhäuser Park. Live bands, fire shows and the Antenne-1 radio party, as well as a large market, round out the activities. The festival opens daily at 7 p.m.

• **Aug. 22 — Bad Diezenbach — Medieval festival**

This festival takes place at the Hiltenburg castle ruins.

• **Aug. 20-23 — Hülben — Hülbehock Street festival**

The festival is located on Kirchstrasse.

• **Aug. 22-24 — Korb — Kronenfest**

This wine festival features Swabian specialties and music in front of the Restaurant Krone in Kleinheppach.

• **Aug. 22-23 — Obersulm — Wine festival**

This festival is located in Eschenau.

• **Aug. 22-23 — Remshalden — Wine festival**

This festival is located in the vineyards of Grunbach.

• **Aug. 23 — Bad Liebenzell — Light Festival "Fairy tale"**

This fireworks festival is located at the Kurpark and opens at 6 p.m.

• **Aug. 23 — Schwäbisch Hall — medieval instrument concert**

This festival is located at the Freilandmuseum Wackershofen.

• **Aug. 23 — Waiblingen — Farm-truck meeting**

This competition and festival is located in Bittenfeld.

• **Aug. 27-30 — Wendlingen am Neckar — Vinzenzifest**

This is a harvest and traditional costume festival located downtown.

• **Aug. 28-31 — Backnang — Wine village**

This wine festival is located in the Oberen Vorstadt.

• **Aug. 28-30 — Schorndorf — Wine village**

The wine festival is located at



• **Aug. 27 to Sept. 13 — Nürtingen — Wine village**

The wine village is located at the Kreuzkirche in the downtown area.

the Marktplatz.

• **Aug. 28-31 — Winnenden — Wine days**

This fest is held downtown.

• **Aug. 29-30 — Albstadt — Airfield festival**

This festival, featuring an air show and antique cars, is located at the Flugplatz Degerfeld.

• **Aug. 29-30 — Bad Teinach — Street and light festival**

The festival is located at the Otto-Neidhart-Allee and features live music and fireworks.

• **Aug. 29-30 — Bietigheim-Bissingen — Arcade Festival**

This festival is located at the Marktplatz.

• **Aug. 29 — Heroldstatt — Bat nights**

Visitors can watch bats flying, learn interesting facts and discover their cave. The event takes place at the Sontheimer Höhle.

• **Aug. 29-30 — Kernen im Remstal — Wine festival**

The Y-Castle is the location for this wine festival.

• **Aug. 29-30 — Korb — Wine festival**

This traditional wine festival is located at the Remstalkellerei in the city section of Kleinheppach.

• **Aug. 29 — Ludwigsburg — Light magic**

Thousands of little lights span the walkways of the castle grounds down to the Emrichsburg.

• **Aug. 29-30 — Mundelheim — Wine festival**

The festival is located at the Marktplatz and Hindenburgstrasse.

• **Aug. 29-30 — Remshalden — Wine festival**

This fest is located in Hebsack.

• **Aug. 29-31 — Rottenburg am Neckar — Village festival**

This festival is located at the Dorfplatz in Obernau.

• **Aug. 29-30 — Rottenburg am Neckar — Roman festival**

This festival includes a Roman and Celtic market at the Römer-Museum.

• **Aug. 29-30 — Tiefenbronn — City festival**

The festival is located in the downtown area.

• **Aug. 29-30 — Weinstadt — City festival**

The festival takes place in the city section of Schnait.

• **Aug. 29-30 — Westerheim — Cave festival**

The cave festival is located 3.5 kilometers outside of Westerheim.

• **Sept. 3-13 Reutlingen Wine festival**

The wine festival is located at the Marienkirche.

• **Aug. 30 to Sept. 1 — Stuttgart-Hedelfingen — Hedelfinger Autumn**

This wine festival is located at the Ammstetter, Gärtner and Heumadener Strasse.

• **Aug. 30 — Wildberg — Flight day**

This festival features a flight show at the Airfield Hub in Sulz am Neckar.

A 'market' variety of events

• **Through Aug. 23 — Stuttgart — Sweet Soul Music Review**

The Theaterhaus in Stuttgart hosts this review featuring the mu-

sic of Ray Charles, the Supremes, James Brown and others. For tickets, visit www.theaterhaus.com.

• **Aug. 22-23 — Gaildorf — International Motocross competition**

This competition is located at the Wacht.

• **Aug. 23 — Blaubeuren — Antique vehicle meet**

This event takes place at the Blautopf.

• **Aug. 28-30 — Sulzbach-Laufen — International muzzle-loader shoot**

This traditional shoot takes place at the Schützenhaus bei der Walkmühle.

• **Aug. 28-30 — Weilheim an der Teck — Horse show**

The show takes place at the Reitplatz in Egelsberg.

• **Aug. 28-30 — Hayingen — Variety market**

This market is located at the Karlsplatz.

• **Aug. 29-31 — Langenseligen — Village festival**

This event takes place at the Rathaus in Wilfingen.

• **Aug. 28-31 — Ilsfeld — Wood market**

This fest includes a beer tent, amusement park, arts and crafts market in the center of town.

• **Sept. 1 — Pfinztal — Flea market**

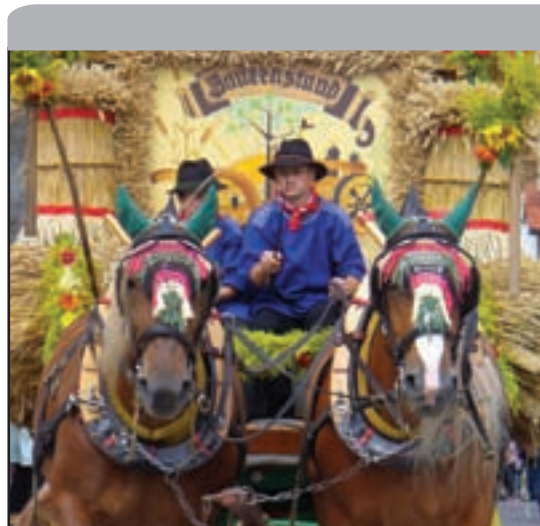
This market is open from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the city center.

• **Sept. 1 — Oberderdingen — September market**

This market is located at the Amthof on Brettener Strasse and the Marktplatz.

• **Sept. 3 — Dusslingen — Variety market**

The market is located at the Hindenburgplatz and on Niederhofenstrasse.



• **Aug. 28-31 — Markgröningen — Shepherds' run**

This is a traditional festival dating back to the year 1651. It is located in the downtown area.



Photos courtesy of Larry Tannenbaum

The Stuttgart American Little League Wolverines pause for a group photo in June. The team won their district championship title and moved on to the European regional tournament for a chance to play in the World Series.

Little League World Series slips from Wolverines' grasp

By Susan Huseman

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

If only the Stuttgart Wolverines could turn back time. No doubt they would rewind to July 19, when the junior Little League team was just one victory away from earning a spot in the 2009 Junior League Baseball World Series to be held this month.

After soundly defeating Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands and Lithuania, the 13- and 14-year-old undefeated Wolverines faced Italy for the championship game at the European Junior League Baseball regional tournament in Kutno, Poland.

"We were confident," said center fielder C.J. Kellogg, now 15. "We were pretty sure we could win. We had one bad inning and that threw us off."

In that "bad inning," the Italian team scored four unearned runs. "I figured we'd get it back. That's what usually happens. But we never did," Kellogg said.

The Wolverines lost the game to the Italians 6-5, and with it, the chance to play in the World Series.

"We were the best team," said Kelly Measells, an assistance coach for the team. "We lost it — [the Italian team] didn't win it."

Despite the loss, the tournament was a great experience. "The kids had a ball," Measells said. "You get to meet all the international players from

countries such as Belarus, Poland and Lithuania." After the games, the players put aside their bats and gloves for friendly sessions of basketball and pingpong, he added.

And while the defeat was a heart-breaker for all concerned, just getting to the finals was no small task.

"We had less than three weeks to mesh together as a team," said head coach Larry Tannenbaum.

The team's success was a result of dedication and many hours of practice. "We're out there two to three hours every day," he said. In three weeks, the players had only four days off.

"It's a lot of work," Tannenbaum said. "The kids have to buy into it. They understood we had the talent to go to the World Series — we just had to make the right decisions about where to play them and who would pitch."

He said the Wolverines played their hearts out and turned in several stellar performances.

Kellogg and right fielder Justin Rich were phenomenal at defense, according to Tannenbaum. "There wasn't a ball that hit the ground. They caught everything," he said.

The pitching staff was at the top of their game, allowing only 19 runs in the regional tourney. "Billy Ellis pitched the entire game against Lithuania, which we won 12-0," Tannenbaum said. Dylan Measells and James Taylor also teamed up to pitch a perfect game



C.J. Kellogg pitches during a game against the Dutch team July 17 during the 2009 Junior League Baseball World Series in Kutno, Poland.

against Germany.

On the offensive side, the Wolverines scored 74 runs in the six regional games. Measells, Taylor and Ryan Tannenbaum each batted over .700.

Now that the season is over, players such as Kellogg will turn their attention to football and basketball.

But baseball is still on Kellogg's mind. He intends to play on the Stuttgart Little League team for 15- and 16-year-olds next year. "I hope we go as far as we did this year, and get ever further," he said.

The Stuttgart American Little League will host a baseball clinic for 12-18 year olds Nov. 12-15 with coaches from Ohio State, California State University, San Bernardino, and the Seattle Mariners. The cost is \$150 per child. The money goes directly to the coaches for their travel expenses. For more information, contact Larry Tannenbaum at L1089@hotmail.com.

SPORTS SHORTS

Bodybuilding contest

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation fitness centers will host a Bodybuilding and Figure Competition Aug. 22 at 6 p.m. in the Kelley Theatre on Kelley Barracks. Entrance is free. This year's guest posers are Moses Henry and Gary Engle.

Weigh-ins are from 8-10 a.m. Registration closes at 10 a.m.

For more information, call 430-7136/civ. 0711-680-7136

Wednesday Night Scramble Aug. 26

The Stuttgart Golf Course will host the last nine-hole Wednesday Night Scramble of the season Aug. 26 at 6 p.m.

For more information, call civ. 07141-87-9151.

Sign up for Labor Day Golf Classic

The Stuttgart American Red Cross will host a Labor Day Golf Classic Sept. 7 at the Stuttgart Golf Course in Kornwestheim. The four-person scramble with shot gun start begins at 9 a.m.

Prizes are valued at more than \$1,000. Lunch is included in the entry fee.

For more information, call 431-2812/civ. 07031-15-2812.

Fit For Life program

It's not too late to join U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart fitness centers' Fit for Life, an exercise tracking program designed to increase fitness levels. Participants receive incentive awards when they reach mileage goals. Miles are awarded for aerobic activity, strength training, sporting activities, skiing/snowboarding and stretching. Participants must be 16 years old or older.

For more information, or to sign up, call the Patch Fitness Center at 430-5386/civ. 0711-680-5386.



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payment. Wolf-Haus, 0170-6886723, 0711-67251122

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A/C, very dependable car. \$800.00 or OBO. Green emissions sticker, Avail, 09/01/2009, email, dfelton002@yahoo.com, or call 0178-1742468

1996 BMW 320i, automatic, german specs, 209,000 KM, \$2,300. Electric windows, sun roof, air condition, original BMW rims, power windows and other extras. For more information call me at 0152-08593073 or email for pictures r030615@gmail.com

1996 Dodge Caravan LE152 K miles good dependable van; passed inspection in June towing pkg.; seats 7 fair condition; parked in px lot on panzer \$2250 Call Doug or Bonnie Martin 07031416831 (h) or email bonniecrock2003@yahoo.com

2000 Volvo S40 - German specs; 171K KMs; AC works great; runs great...just passed inspection in June; \$6,500. Call 071186034506 or email summersc130@yahoo.com

2001 Rover 75 Series, 4dr Sedan, 160 K (100, 00 Miles), Eur specs, Automatic trans, passed inspection, beige in-

terior, green, Tape/am/fm, services by Rover dealer, one owner. Asking \$5, 500 OBO. playmaker63@hotmail.com, 0162-297 6051. Stuttgart

2003 Mini One, medium blue 3dr sunroof/moon roof combination, AC/PS, LW/MW/FM radio w/cass, 56,000+ km (35,000+ mi), 1.6 L/16 v engine (burns super grade gasoline), 5spd manual trans, gray and black interior. Recent new exhaust system, new battery, BMW-maint. Good cond, great commuter car, very good mileage, surprising cargo capacity w/rear seats down, easy to park and happy at autobahn speeds. Lien-free title; asking \$6400. Call DSN 430-5604, 0715-235-1020, or e-mail ralphanjuliana@tk-net.com or Juliana.Arias-Anderson@eucom.mil

2005 Audi TT Coupe, 3.2 liter V6, 225 HP, 6-speed, Quattro all-wheel drive, glacier blue. Only 27,000 miles. Excellent condition. \$21,000. Contact Doug at 0176-6466-3568 or djpittner@mac.com

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Ford Explorer XLT, Blue / Gray trim, 2002 Model, 6 Cyl. 65.000 Miles, Sun Roof, Leather Third Seat, 7 Passenger, good condition. Blue Book Value \$7.500. negotiable. Call 07031-204-5793 evennings, or 017629574321

2004 Audi A4 wagon, 1.9 TDI quattro, \$11,000. Dark metallic blue, S-Line package, leather trimmed sport seats, xenon lights, six-speed manual, inspection good until October 2010, AM/FM CD stereo, IPOD interface, Climate automatic, Front, side and head airbags, ABS, all-wheel drive, sport package, comes with summer and winter tires. Always dealer maintained. Call: Rob @ 430 - 8507 or 0176.246.96362 E-mail: rob-gordon13@yahoo.com

For Sale

“Stand alone Kitchenette, medium size (273 cm wide x 58 cm deep), light wood (Buche) color cabinets, complete with 220v appliances (oven, ceramic stovetop, exhaust hood and duct), and sink. 600 Euro OBO. Phone: 07031-6816694, email: ellisjohnf@hotmail.com”

2007 Kona Blast XC Bicycle - great shape; blue; mech disc brakes; Shimano shifters; 16 inch; \$250; Call 071186034506 or email summersc130@yahoo.com

Babolat Pure Drive Tennis Racket. Purchased new in June for \$150 and played less than ten times. 9/10 on a condition scale. Poly string at 27/28 kgs (very good condition). New overgrip. Asking \$100. Contact Mike Stuber at 0711-680-5940 or michael.stuber@us.army.mil

Brand new front and rear struts for 1994-'96 Toyota Camry. Didn't need them - still in the box. Will sell for \$175 - that's half price. Call 07152-356-6328.

Coffee table in shape of books; has a few pen marks; paid \$800; best offer; dark pine entertainment center; good condition; paid 680 euro; best offer; light pine entertainment center with painted flowers; very good condition; paid \$1000; best offer. Please call Bonnie Martin at 07031416831 or email bonniecrock2003@yahoo.com

Couches: 3 piece matching couches, Chair & Cushions. For the Set, Asking \$599, Call 0711-20708010 after 6 PM or 430-8826 before 6 PM. Photos available.

Dark Brown wood teak entertainment center; 2 years old; originally 660 euros; asking \$300 OBO. Light colored pine entertainment center with painted flowers on front; could use for wardrobe in little girl's room; asking \$300 OBO. Coffee table in shape of books; opens up; some pen marks on top; \$250 OBO. Call Bonnie Martin at 07031416831 or email bonniecrock2003@yahoo.com Live in Sindelfingen

For Sale-German Conversation 1a class books, with CDs x2 paid 65 Euro, will sell for half price 32 Euro. Call 0711 342 17642, leave message.

Kettler electric “Toronto” Treadmill in new condition - only has 360 km on it. Variable

speeds and inclines. Has ear pulse monitor. New price was 1500 Euro - asking 900 Euro. Tel. 07159-44991.

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Microwave oven; 220V; only used 1 year; 900W; labels in Spanish; \$30. Toaster oven, brand new, with rotisserie function; 110V; still in original packaging; \$40. Brand new 2003 LSU Championship Mug and shot glass; pewter accents; still in box; \$7. Christmas dinnerware, 48 piece set serves 12; poinsettia design; \$20. Brand new curtains, still in packaging; call for sizes, colors and prices. 07033-466048; mrsbartwig@yahoo.com

Moving sale: small/medium soft sided travel bag with sherpa lining for cat or small dog - \$50.00 (paid \$100.00 - like new); litter box - \$5 (clean and like new); square white fold up Ikea table \$40.00 - (good for bunco); square solid oak coffee table (has chip) - \$40; various plants large and small including orchids; lots of womens and girls (junior sizes) clothes, formal dresses; various 220 volt items: waffle maker, crepe maker, crock pot, coffee maker, 3 fans, lawn mower, cordless hedge trimmer (two types of blades), vacuum cleaner; various transformers, mini freez-

er; girls bike, boys bike, fold up wooden diaper changer, Medium size wrought iron wine rack w/rich teak wood top 200€, (new) and much more. Call 07031765969 or email for more information - hairbernette@hotmail.com

Three piece leather sectional couch. Beige color. Worn, not torn. \$50 - pick up only. Twin mattress set. Hardly used. \$80 - pick up only. Near Panzer Kaserne Army Base. Email for photos. cactusmex@yahoo.com

Two video games World of War (WOW) Battlechest for pc. Used only one day all items in box brand new. Cost each \$36.99 but will sell them each for \$25.00. Email for particulars bushyhtm@yahoo.com.

Large Entertainment center (composite wood) for sale \$110.00. J. C. Penneys white solid wood nursery furniture: chest of drawers and chest with flip down changing table. \$125.00 each or \$200.00 for both. Contact Jon after 1700 hrs at 06372-806-4294.

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