

# THE CITIZEN

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U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

September 17, 2009

Serving the Greater Stuttgart Military Community

## Soldiers, families can expect H1N1 vaccine in October

By C. Todd Lopez  
Army News Service

**S**oldiers and families can expect to get two flu shots this year.

In addition to the conventional flu shot administered each fall, the H1N1 or "Swine Flu" vaccine should be available by mid-October, said Col. Deborah Knickerbocker, chief of Emergency Preparedness and Response, the Office of the Surgeon General and Army Medical Command.

Knickerbocker spoke during the Army Emergency Management Conference Sept. 1 at the Pentagon. The conference coincided with the start of National Preparedness Month.

Getting flu shots, in addition to taking measures to prevent exposure to the virus or spreading the virus, is part of preparedness, Knickerbocker said. In addition, it is important for maintaining mission readiness.

"When Soldiers and family members take care of themselves and prepare, they not only help the Army be more resilient, they help the local communities they are in be more resilient," she said.

"There's going to be vaccine, and there's going to be enough to go around," Knickerbocker said.

"Everybody is going to get their shots."

Knickerbocker said the H1N1 vaccine will be distributed to Soldiers, families and other beneficiaries, mostly through their primary care providers.

"They'll get their seasonal shots and the H1N1 shot as soon as they become available," Knickerbocker said.

Along with the vaccinations, Knickerbocker recommends a number of common-sense measures to prevent the spread of H1N1.

"Just teaching people about how easy it is to prevent disease by washing our hands, and cough- and sneeze-hygiene and etiquette, it's pretty simple," she said. "Part of what we need to do is instill in the culture of the military — which does not really usually think this way — to stay home when you are sick. If you go to work sick, you'll make office mates sick, or squad mates."

The H1N1 virus has made headlines because it's a "novel" virus, Knickerbocker said.

"We haven't seen the virus before. And, when we have a virus that people have not been exposed to before, we have no immunity to it," Knickerbocker said.

Many of the deaths from H1N1 occurred in

Mexico, and in those already immuno-compromised, so the virus gained notoriety, Knickerbocker said. But the effects of the virus have not been what was expected — not even as bad as seasonal flu.

"The message has been sent out there that this particular virus is not as virulent as we had been planning for with the H5N1, not as virulent as the seasonal flu," she said. "And seasonal influenza kills about 36,000 in this country each year."

Knickerbocker said that while Soldiers can expect to get vaccinated for both the seasonal flu and the H1N1 flu virus, the Army does not expect the H1N1 to have damaging effects on the Army.

"I don't think the Army is worried about this particular H1N1 virus. If it stays at the level of severity that it is now, which is mild, it should have no more effect on operations than the seasonal flu does," she said. "But we have to take care during flu season to try to prevent getting ill, and stay home if we are ill, to prevent operational impact."

For more information on the H1N1 virus and vaccine, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site at [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu).

## The long, dark tunnel: children and deployment

*Editor's Note: This is the first in a three-part series addressing the emotional affects deployment has on families in the military.*

Story & photo by Brittany Carlson  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

**T**o military families, a deployment can seem like a long, dark tunnel.

The pain of loneliness and the stresses of managing without a spouse and parent force these families to deal with issues that their civilian counterparts may never have to face.

To some military children, the tunnel is endless: they don't always understand why a parent has to leave, and fear they will not return.

However, medical experts agree

that both children and parents can make it through, as long as they have someone to walk beside them.

"The cases that worry me most are when you have a parent or family that is so isolated or alone — they fall apart," said Dr. Eric N. Leong, chief of behavioral health for the Stuttgart Army Health Clinic.

According to an article from Medical News Today in August, citing a study in the Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, "Military family and community supports help mitigate family stress during periods of deployment."

The 2009 study tested the mental health of both children and at-home parents dealing with deployments. The results are disturbing: "One-third of children with a parent deployed in the

Global War on Terror are at high risk for psychosocial problems," it stated.

Some of these problems include poor performance at school and outbursts of anger, Leong added. "During the first deployment, a lot of kids will react in a way that's unexpected because they're angry, or they're sad, and they're [not sure] what to do with their feelings. They'll take it out more on parents who are left behind."

This can start a vicious cycle. In fact, "The stress of the at-home parent is the main factor affecting children's risk," the article from Medical News Today continued.

To stay mentally healthy, both parent and child need to talk to someone about the emotions they are experiencing.

See *Deployment* on page 4



Jovanni Addison, 7, displays a photo of his father, who is deployed to Afghanistan.

Page 6

### Kindergartners bring teachers home

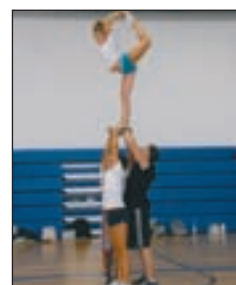
The kindergarten home visit program allows 5- and 6-year-olds to visit with their new teacher, at home or at school, before the first day of class.



Pages 8-9

### Panthers prepare for fall sports

With the fall sports season upon them, Patch High School athletes' hopes are high as they prepare to get their game on.



INSIDE  
THIS  
EDITION

# Army Suicide Prevention Month: Army committed to improving physical, spiritual, behavioral health of all who serve

Commentary by

**Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Scott Weichl**

*U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine*

September is designated as Army Suicide Prevention Month, with the intent of improving the health of the Army's most precious assets — Soldiers, families and Department of the Army civilians.

However, preventing suicide is only one aspect of this health improvement. Healthy living also addresses high risk behaviors, which often mask underlying challenges in a person's life.

The Army is committed to improving the physical, spiritual and behavioral health of all who serve. This is being done through a variety of ways and opportunities for personal wellness.

The U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine maintains a Web site linking users to many different resources. These resources are provided to promote personal growth — leading toward more healthy behaviors.

Just as each of us has a role in reducing the suicide rate, we also have a responsibility to assume healthy personal growth strategies.

Resources, encouragement and ease of access

are there for each person to take advantage of. If you do not find what you are looking for, talk to your chaplain, a behavioral health provider or other trusted source to get you started in the right direction.

Several resources being reviewed for release in the fall include suicide prevention awareness training for Army leaders, Soldiers, families and civilians. The new videos and presentations also include closed-captioning for families and civilians.

The technical guides help make presentations easier and address many of the questions that arise during the group discussions. The ACE and tip cards provide easy ways to remind ourselves of the signs and responses for intervening in crisis situations, or at times when we are concerned about a friend, family member or peer.

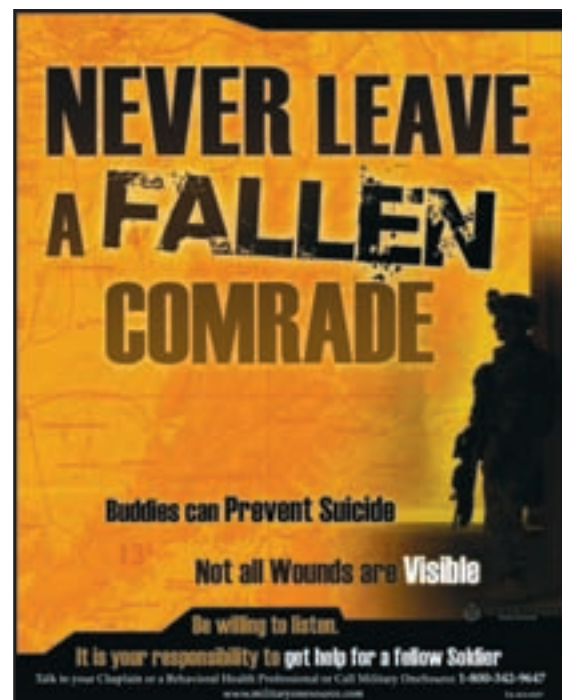
So, as we focus for 30 days on health and wellness, each of us has an important role in supporting health promotion, risk reduction and suicide prevention efforts.

If you are not involved, then who will be?

*For more information on suicide prevention products, resources and research, visit the Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine's AKO site at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/>*

*page/503094.*

*To order Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine's behavioral health and suicide prevention products, visit [http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/hio\\_public/orders.aspx](http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/hio_public/orders.aspx).*



## THE CITIZEN

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## ON THE STREET

*What do you like about the Stuttgart area?*



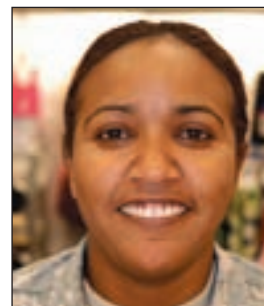
**Brigid Sullivan**  
*(Navy Spouse)*

"The trains are really accessible."



**Stephan Karabin Sr.**  
*(Civilian)*

"I love the people. The people are nice."



**Sgt. Betty Pileski**  
*(U.S. Army)*

"I like the way we have Navy, Air Force and everything combined."



**Stephen Willey**  
*(Retiree)*

"There's a lot of people, and a lot of shops and stores."



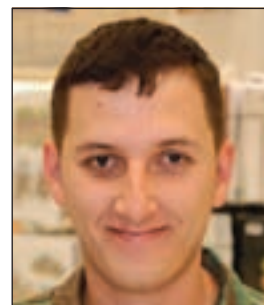
**Corey Burden**  
*(Contractor)*

"It has gotten me into going out more ... being able to experience a different culture."



**Rebecca Martin**  
*(Civilian Spouse)*

"We're centrally located, and there's always a fest."



**Petty Officer 2nd Class Von Turner**  
*(U.S. Navy)*

"The area is really nice: a lot of history and fun things to do downtown."



**Rhonda Oliver**  
*(Air Force Spouse)*

"I like that it is so close to so many other countries."

# Holiday Greetings team comes to Stuttgart Sept. 29 to tape messages

By Rich Lamance

Joint Hometown News Service

A broadcast team from the Joint Hometown News Service in San Antonio, Texas, will be in Stuttgart Sept. 29 to tape video holiday greetings of service members and their families.

Service members from all branches of service, their family members, and Department of Defense civilians are eligible to participate.

Tapings will occur from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Shopping Center on Panzer Kaserne.

Below are a few guidelines to follow to ensure family and friends back home see your personal greeting on local television.

- Bring an address book. You'll need to provide family members' names, city, state and phone number. No street address is needed this year, but station managers need phone contact information to let families know when the greeting will air.

- Service members need to be in uniform. Family members should accompany their sponsor, unless their sponsor is deployed.

- There is a good chance there will be waiting lines. Lunch time and after work are normally prime time, so if you can break away for a few minutes any other time during the day, you can avoid the rush.

- Try to be cheerful and in the holiday spirit. It doesn't show well on camera if your teenage daughter looks like she'd rather be at the mall than wishing Grandma happy holidays.

- Try to keep hand gestures to a minimum.

- When giving your greetings, don't say "Happy Thanksgiving." Most greetings will begin to air on Thanksgiving Day and will quickly become obsolete if that day has come and gone when your greeting airs.

- Write down a few main points on an index card.



Susan Huseman

***A community member prepares to record a holiday greeting during last year's Joint Hometown News Service holiday video taping. This year, JHNS will be in Stuttgart Sept. 29. Military members and their families, as well as DoD civilians, can use the free program to record holiday greetings, which will be aired on their loved ones' local television stations.***

Jot down family members' names and the points you want to get across. If you have family in more than one area, you can do several greetings. You've got 15 to 20 seconds per greeting — more than enough time to get in your holiday wishes to those closest to you.

Television stations will normally begin running greetings on Thanksgiving, and continue through New Year's Day. Many greetings air multiple times during the holidays and usually on more than one station.

*For more information on the video holiday tapings, call the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Public Affairs Office at 431-3099/07031-15-3099.*

## Vehicle crashes drive off-duty summer fatalities

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

Four service members died in off-duty accidents Labor Day weekend, bringing to 95 the number killed during the summer season, safety officials reported.

Two Soldiers, a Sailor and an Airman died in vehicle accidents during the Labor Day weekend, which marked the unofficial end of summer that, historically, sees a spike in vehicular and recreational accidents.

Twenty fewer service members died compared to last year, with Army, Navy and Marine Corps officials all reporting fewer off-duty fatalities.

But just as in 2008, car, truck and motorcycle accidents continued to take the heaviest toll.

The Army reported 40 off-duty fatalities this summer, down from 61 last year. Fifteen of the Soldiers died on motorcycles, compared to 24 last year.

Jim Yonts, director of strategic communication at the Army Combat Readiness and Safety Center, said he was pleased by the decrease, but cautioned against declaring a trend.

"While we show positive results in many safety areas, we cannot allow ourselves to be seduced by positive statistics," Yonts said. "Engaged leadership, peers and families, in conjunction with Soldiers tak-

ing responsibility for their own, is paramount to drive down accidental off-duty losses."

The Navy reported 20 fatalities between the Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends, down from last year's 32. Marine Corps off-duty deaths also dropped, from 20 last year to 13 this year.

Six of the Sailors, including one who died Sept. 5, were killed in single-vehicle wrecks. Two died in multiple-vehicle accidents and five on motorcycles, according to April Phillips, public affairs officer for the Naval Safety Center.

The Air Force was the only service to see an increase in off-duty fatalities between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends: 22 compared to last year's 17.

Five of the Airmen were killed on motorcycles. Thirteen died in four-wheeled-vehicle accidents, reported Paul Carlisle, deputy chief of the Air Force Safety Center's ground safety office.

Last year, 115 service members died in off-duty accidents between the Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day.

To reduce those statistics this year, the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard launched a joint summer safety campaign before Memorial Day. Safety chiefs emphasized the importance of everyone — service members, civilians and family members alike — to make the campaign a success.

## News & Notes

### Deployment Excellence Award nominations now accepted

Nomination packets for the 2010 Deployment Excellence Award are due to U.S. Army Europe by Jan. 8.

The DEA program was established to recognize Army units for outstanding accomplishments that meet or exceed Army deployment standards.

Deploying, redeploying and deploying supporting units or agencies are qualified to self-nominate for the award, based on their deployment process.

Units interested in applying for the award can e-mail Aaron Burr at [aaron.burr@eur.army.mil](mailto:aaron.burr@eur.army.mil), or call DSN 370-5407.

### AFN is moving to Mannheim, then relocating to Stuttgart

Within the next few years, American Forces Network Heidelberg will officially become AFN Stuttgart — after a stop at Coleman Barracks in Mannheim.

The move is in direct response to recently announced changes to manning in Germany. With its rapidly growing population and newly-formed units, such as U.S. Africa Command, the largest percentage of the AFN audience will be in the Stuttgart community.

Despite the move to Mannheim, AFN Heidelberg will keep its current name until it moves to Stuttgart.

AFN's radio shows will remain the same, with the same frequencies (104.6 in Heidelberg, 107.3 in Mannheim, and 102.3 in Stuttgart).

The local television channel may look different for a week or two while AFN moves its automations systems from one location to another.

For more information, updated phone numbers and contact information, visit <http://heidelberg.afneurope.net>.

### Time for seasonal flu vaccine

The seasonal influenza vaccine has arrived in Europe and is being distributed to Army medical clinics throughout the region, according to Col. Theresa Moser, chief of the Force Health Protection Office, Europe Regional Medical Command.

"We expect no vaccine shortages," said Moser. "We can begin immunizing everyone in our population now — no one should wait."

Moser said it takes about two weeks for the body to build immunity to the virus, so sooner is better than later.

Clinic commanders have been charged with making early efforts to vaccinate all active-duty and civilian health care providers. Family members and other beneficiaries can get their shot now.

This year's goal is to immunize 95 percent of the active duty population and all civilian direct health care providers by Dec. 1, a month earlier than last year's goal.

Active duty service members can expect to receive information about seasonal flu vaccinations from their units. Other beneficiaries should contact their clinic for instructions.

For more information, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site at [www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/keyfacts.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/keyfacts.htm).

# 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:** I recently got into a fight with my service member girlfriend, and she stole and broke some of my stuff. Also, a service member friend got drunk and he wrecked my place. What can I do?

**A:** While I will address some solutions to the destruction and loss of property described, it is important to note that compensation for loss of your property is not the same as addressing the underlying problems that your girlfriend/friend may have. As a result of deployment or simply being stressed, people often need a significant other/battle buddy to look out for them. In the above situations, I would refer the individual to, and, if necessary, inform the Wellness Center at 430-4073/civ. 0711-680-4073 or Army Substance Abuse Program at 431-2530/civ. 07031-15-2530 of the situation and ask for guidance.

In regards to compensation, the situations that you are describing may be compensable under Article 139 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Article 139 claims can be made by any individual (civilian or service member), business entity, government, or non-profit organization and can be filed against any 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.

A compensable Article 139 claim requires that the person you are claiming against either "willfully damaged" or "wrongfully took" property that belonged to you. "Willfully damaged" is damage inflicted intentionally, knowingly, and purposefully without justifiable excuse. "Wrongfully took" includes unauthorized taking or withholding of property with the intent to temporarily or permanently deprive the owner of the property. Things that are not payable under an Article 139 claim include negligent acts and personal injury.

This means that both of the situations above would more than likely be compensable, so long as two conditions are met. First, your girlfriend/friend would need to be on active duty, an activated reservist, or a National Guardsman serving in a federal capacity. Second, the damage to your property must have been caused intentionally, knowingly or purposefully. In the case of the drunken friend, an unintentional drunken stumble destroying your property would not be payable, whereas him smashing your stuff intentionally would most likely be payable.

To inquire about whether a specific instance could be compensable under Article 139, visit the Stuttgart Law Center's Claims Office in Room 222, Building 3312 on Kelley Barracks.

*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.*



Brittany Carlson

## Oil spill exercise provides training

*Kovati Nua, an employee at the Panzer Kaserne Auto Craft Shop, practices containing the source of an oil spill during annual spill containment training, while his co-worker, Sandie Scott, right, looks on. free training, held by the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Directorate of Public Works' Environmental Division, taught 23 students how to clean up oil spills (in this case, a bio-degradable solution).*

## Deployment . . . . .

*Continued from page 1*

Joquez Addison, 9, talks about missing his father, who deployed with the 554th Military Police Company to Afghanistan for one year, with his mom. "I usually cry, then my mom says 'It will be alright,' then I'll go outside," he said. "That makes my mind stop worrying about it."

He also attends Mini Troopers, an Army Community Service program that meets each month at Patch Elementary School, with his brother, Jovanni, 7.

In the Mini Troopers program, children of deployed parents meet to talk and participate in activities with Military Family Life Consultants, who are licensed clinical counselors.

Michael Hayes, 10, is another Mini Trooper whose father deployed with the 554th. "Kids talk about how they feel," he said. "It helped."

Service members and their families can also access MFLCs at any time on a confidential basis.

The at-home parent should also take steps to ensure their own mental health, Leong added, such as joining a Family Readiness Group or spiritual organization, and planning some "me" time.

It's also important to make emergency plans together in case of an unexpected crisis, he added, and set up regular communication with the deployed parent.

Since her father deployed with the 554th MP Company, Pam Hernandez, 19, communicates with him using a Web camera. She also sends him videos of herself, and he sends pictures back. "It's a little bit easier to handle because I get to talk to him, and I get to see him," she said. "I feel so proud of him. That keeps me calm."

In addition, Leong said, the at-home spouse should make sure his or her children understand that the deployment is not anyone's fault. "Make it clear that, as a family, you're going through a hard time," Leong said. "Tell them, 'We're all in this together.'"

"Children often can step up and help out," he added. "In helping out, children often feel empowered and more in control."

This is especially helpful for very young children, who often believe their parents have the ability to say "no" to deploying, Leong said.

Elementary- and middle school-aged children can become fearful. "They tend to get really scared," Leong said. "They don't want their parents to die."

Sometimes children at this age will refuse to talk to their deployed parent on the phone because it is too painful for them.

Even infants are affected by deployment. "They don't have a chance to bond with the parent [deploying]," Leong said.

When that parent returns, it is important to allow the young child to adjust to the change since the returning parent will be essentially a stranger. Given enough time and patience, the child will rebound to the returning parent.

As children grow older, they often find it helpful to focus on school and their daily activities, said Randy Zamerinsky-Lussier, an Army Substance Abuse Counseling Service counselor. "[Think], what do you need to do to keep everything normal, as if the parent was still here?"

Since her father deployed, Hernandez has taken up salsa dancing. "I think it's best to keep busy," she said.

No matter the age, it is vital that the parent at home take care of themselves in order to help their children cope, Leong said. Parents who cannot deal with the stress of deployment in a healthy way sometimes resort to overspending, drugs, alcohol or affairs. "I wish I could say it doesn't happen, but it does happen," he added. "That affects the family in a huge way."

Families who build networks of support through community programs, friendship and open communication have better chances of staying healthy.

"You have to make sure that you take care of yourself," Leong said. "Be connected to other people — people who understand, and people who are there to support you."

# SOCAFRICA welcomes new commander, says farewell to Higgins

By Capt. Bryan Purtell

Special Operations Command Africa  
Public Affairs Office

U.S. Army Col. Christopher K. Haas assumed command of Special Operations Command Africa from Brig. Gen. Patrick M. Higgins at a change of command ceremony held Aug. 24 on Kelley Barracks.

Haas was the director of the U.S. Special Operations Command Legislative Affairs office in Washington, D.C. He is a graduate of Duquesne University, where he was commissioned through the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps as a second lieutenant in the infantry.

“To all the members of SOCAFRICA, I am in awe of your accomplishments and your professionalism,” Haas said. “You all have my deepest respect, trust and confidence. And I will, in the coming months, endeavor to earn yours.”

Higgins served as SOCAFRICA’s first commander and assumed command of the unit in August 2007, when it was a transitional headquarters. He said he was extremely proud of



Petty Officer 1st Class Daniel P. Lapierre

**Gen. William E. Ward (right), AFRICOM commander, presents the Special Operations Command Africa colors to Col. Christopher K. Haas, the new SOCAFRICA commander, during a change of command ceremony Aug. 24.**

the command he will leave behind to become the director of Special Operations Directorate-Iraq, Multi-National Forces-Iraq.

“Together, we built what I consider one of the finest teams I have ever been a part of — a staff of dedicated and talented people who believe in AFRICOM’s mission and in an innovative

approach to meet the daily challenges of that mission — a mission of peace, not war,” Higgins said. “I have been proud to stand side-by-side with each and every one of you. The important work you do here is making a difference to our nation and to the prosperity, security and freedom of the African people.”

Gen. William E. “Kip” Ward, commander of U.S. Africa Command, presided over the ceremony. In his remarks, he said Higgins was the right choice to be SOCAFRICA’s first commander.

“It was a tall order, setting up a theater special operations command, but no question, if you know Pat Higgins — he was up for the task,” Ward said. “Under his command, SOCAFRICA today is thriving and doing great things on the African continent. I’m so proud. Congratulations and well done, my friend.”

“I could not ask for a more perfect commander to come here behind Gen. Higgins and take over SOCAFRICA,” Ward added. “Absolutely no doubt, Col. Haas is the man for the job.”

As SOCAFRICA commander, Haas exercises operational control of Special Operations Forces within the command’s area of responsibility, which includes 53 countries and more than 13 million square miles. The primary focus of the command is on Special Operations Forces missions that develop African partner capacity, provide assistance and support theater security cooperation objectives.

## Kitchen can be recipe for disaster — with young children

U.S. Fire Administration

“Stay fire safe! Don’t get burned,” is this year’s theme for the National Fire Prevention Association’s Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 4-10).

The campaign focuses on burn awareness and preven-

tion, as well as keeping homes safe from the leading causes of home fires, such as cooking.

Many families gather in the kitchen to spend time together, but it can be one of the most hazardous rooms in the house, if safe cooking behaviors aren’t practiced. Cooking equipment — most often a range or stovetop — is the

leading cause of reported home fires and home fire injuries in the United States.

Young children are at high risk of being burned by hot food and liquids. Keep children away from cooking areas by enforcing a “kid-free zone” of three feet around the stove or any place where hot food or drinks are being prepared or carried. Also, be sure to keep hot foods and liquids away from table and counter edges.

Never hold a child while

cooking, drinking, or carrying hot foods or liquids, and teach children that hot things burn.

To prevent spills when cooking, use the back burner when possible and turn pot handles away from the stove’s edge. All appliance cords need to be coiled and away from counter edges.

Use oven mitts or potholders when moving hot food from ovens, microwave ovens, or stovetops. Never use wet oven mitts or potholders as they can cause scald burns.

Treat a burn right away, putting it in cool water. Cool the burn for three to five minutes. If the burn is bigger than your fist, or if you have any questions about how to treat it, seek medical attention right away.

Visit the U.S. Fire Administration’s Web site at [www.usfa.dhs.gov](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov).

For more information, call the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Fire Department at 430-2065/civ. 0711-680-2065.

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Susan Huseman

## Practice makes perfect

Students from Lacey Elliot’s kindergarten class leave their classroom in a single file during the first fire drill of the school year at Böblingen Elementary/Middle School Sept. 9.

# Private visits prepare kindergartners, parents for school

By **Brittany Carlson**

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

For a first day at school, this one was pretty easy.

Katie Wrona, 5, walked into her kindergarten classroom at Böblingen Elementary/Middle School and had the whole place to herself. There were no assignments — just toys to play with, places to explore, and a story, read to her by her teacher, Teresa Senna. Best of all, Mom was there the whole time.

Katie's day was part of the Department of Defense Dependent Schools kindergarten home-visit program, which gives each child the chance to meet with their new teacher one-on-one before the first day of school.

The visits were held Aug. 31 to Sept. 4 for U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart. Kindergarten started Sept. 8.

Families of kindergartners can opt to host the teacher in their own home, visit them in the classroom, or both.

"Some of them have never been to school before," said Lucy Roach, kindergarten teacher at Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle School. "It's a way of softening things and making them feel comfortable coming to school."

Almost 100 percent of all kindergartners enrolled at RBEMS, BEMS and Patch Elementary School participated in home/classroom visits this year.

"Some of them are a little shy, and it helps for me to see them," Roach added. "They get to know me, and they get to see that I'm a normal person. If I'm at their house, it means I must be welcome."

The familiar atmosphere helps break the ice for first introductions, Senna added. "Meeting them at home makes it more comfortable — it's on their turf."

In addition to the home visits, classroom visits give children a chance to see where they will spend time in school, from the tables and play area to their own cubby.

"I usually have [children] draw a picture of themselves. Then I hang it in the classroom so they can see a part of something that they've done," Senna said.

Besides helping children to be comfortable, the visits inform parents of their child's curriculum and school policies, such as pick-up and drop-off times. Children are informed of the types of things they'll be learning and doing, from reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to taking physical education class.

"I tell them what they need for the classroom," Roach said. "I hand them the itinerary — what they do during the day. This way they know what to expect."

For Katie's mother, Kimberly Wrona, the home and classroom visits were especially helpful. "Katie's more shy," she said. "This is important for her so that she can be more confident the first day of school."



**Teresa Senna, kindergarten teacher at BEMS, shares a laugh with Katie Wrona, 5, after reading her 'The Kissing Hand' during a classroom visit.**

## PTAs bring more programs, festivities to student experience

By **Brittany Carlson**

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

School dances, spelling bees, book fairs and field days are as much a part of the school experience as math class.

But, without U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Parent Teacher Associations, they probably wouldn't exist.

"[The PTA] is the heart of the school," said Tamyla Abraham, Parent Teacher Student Association president for Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle School. "This is where you have parent involvement."

Each school in USAG Stuttgart has some form of a PTA, which raises money for school projects and programs outside of the school budget.

The more parent volunteers a PTA has, the more programs it can fund.

"I feel it's the best way to take part in my child's education," said Sandra Vitt, vice president for the RBEMS PTSA. "I like being part of the solutions when situations arise. Then my kids can say, 'My mom helped with that.'"

### RBEMS

In the RBEMS PTSA, teachers, parents and students can all become members with the power to vote on events and fundraisers.

Some new events this year include a student recycling program and an international night.

The international night will focus on other world cultures, such as Africa. "We

want to bring in some dancers," Abraham said. "We want to enhance the children's education on what Africa is."

Traditional PTSA fundraisers at RBEMS include middle school dances, a fall festival and Scholastic book orders.

Besides funding programs, the PTSA also provides an emergency fund, which purchases school supplies and books for families in need on an anonymous basis.

The PTSA also provides free community and school events such as math night, spring fun fest and field day.

"It's not just about books and doing homework; it's also the whole student experience," Abraham added.

The RBEMS PTSA plans to meet on the first Thursday of every month.

For more information, e-mail Abraham at tamyla4@msn.com.

### Patch Elementary

The Patch Elementary PTA hosts several fundraisers throughout the year, including school pictures, yearbooks, and a school dance, which raised more than \$6,000 last year.

The money helps pay for items such as new books for classrooms and the school library.

"Last year, the PTA raised funds for grade-level grants, allowing teachers, as a team, to [request] supplemental learning materials specific to their grade," said Carmen Richardson, PES PTA president.

New ideas for activities this year include an art gallery/chocolate dessert night and a fall festival.

"If parents are involved with the school, it generates excitement with the students, parents and teachers," Richardson said. "That is how you build community within the school."

The Patch Elementary School PTA meets monthly. For more information, e-mail Carmen Richardson at carmen@richardson-family.net.

### Patch High

This year, Patch High School has a Parent Teacher Organization, a private version of a PTA that does not have to pay dues to the national Parent Teacher Association.

Ralph Menzel, PTO president, plans to make full use of the savings.

"At the beginning of the year, we passed out money to 11 different organizations in the high school," he said.

The PTO also raises money through its Web site, [www.zazzle.com/phspanthers](http://www.zazzle.com/phspanthers), which sells school 'spirit wear.'

Although the PTO doesn't have the word "student" in the title, students can still be voting members, Menzel said. "I think that gives them the chance for leadership and growth, and to be part of the greater school community."

Activities this year could include the traditional Pumpkin Drop, hosted in part by the school physics classes, and a trivia night.

"The vast majority of activities that

take place at the high school level are usually driven by parents, especially since we're here overseas," Menzel said. "Parents support activities, games, [and] meets, in addition to academics."

The PTO meets on the third Tuesday of every month in the school library.

For more information, call Menzel at civ. 07156-17-99656.

### BEMS

Through fundraisers such as a holiday gift shop and "Original Works," in which students' artwork can be printed on household items, the Böblingen Elementary/Middle School PTA provides several supplementary programs to the school.

Last year, the BEMS PTA raised more than \$24,000, which went directly to support BEMS student education and enrichment, including classroom supplies and materials, workbooks, and student planners.

The funds also went toward creating enrichment programs that include Brain POP, Weekly Reader, middle school dances, spelling bees and the school-wide program, "Character Counts."

"Their lives are enriched," said Tina Bradley, BEMS PTA president. "It provides them with opportunities that they wouldn't [otherwise] have."

The first general meeting of the year is scheduled for Sept. 23 at 8:30 a.m. in the Panzer Mall food court on Panzer Kaserne.

For more information, e-mail bulldogpta@gmail.com.

**Community Banks to open later**

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Community Banks will open later on Sept. 23 because of mandatory training. The Patch Community Bank will open from 1-4 p.m. and the Panzer Kaserne and Kelley Barracks Community Banks will open from 1:30-4 p.m.

**Try free Tai Chi**

In recognition of Suicide Prevention Month, the Stuttgart Army Substance Abuse Program will host free Tai Chi classes Sept. 18 at 6:30 a.m. in the Patch Fitness Center gym and Sept. 24 at 1 p.m. in the Kelley Fitness Center gym.

For more information, call the Army Substance Abuse Program at 431-2530/civ. 07031-15-2530.

**Discounted Horror Night tickets on sale**

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's KONTAKT German-American Club is selling discounted tickets for a Halloween Horror Night at Europa Park on Oct. 11 for ages 16 years and older. Tickets include admission into Europa Park and the Marc Terenzi Horror Night show. Discounted tickets for the Europa Park entrance only are also available.

For more information, e-mail info@Kontakt-club-stuttgart.de, or call 431-2301/civ. 07031-15-2301/civ. 07031-15-2301.

**Discover Stuttgart**

Learn about German culture, language and public transportation at the Stuttgart Newcomers Orientation Sept. 22 and 24. Future class dates include Oct. 6 and 8 and Nov. 3 and 5. 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.

**Women's career workshop set**

A women's career development workshop in resume building will be held Oct. 14 from 9-11 a.m. in the Army Community Service conference room in Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne. Registration is required.

For more information, call the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Equal Employment Op-

**Kids show inner diva at fair**



Young community members perform on the karaoke stage at the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's Family Fair Aug. 29. The fair, held at the Panzer Mall, featured the Stuttgart Gospel Choir, wine tasting, a fashion show, face painting and other family activities.

Larry Reilly

portunity Office at 430-5256/civ. 0711-680-5256.

**Celebrate Hispanic heritage Sept. 18**

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month during an observance on Sept. 18 at 3:30 p.m. in the Swabian Special Event Center on Patch Barracks.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Chrysti Lassiter-Jones, Equal Opportunity advisor, at 430-7945/civ. 0711-680-7945.

**Health clinic closed Oct. 9, 12**

The Stuttgart Army Health Clinic will be closed for Columbus Day weekend, Oct. 9 and 12. For emergencies, contact the Military Police. For

immediate health care needs, call the Nurse Advice Line at 0800-825-1600 (from a DSN line) or 00800-4759-2330 (from a civilian line).

**Ski club meets Sept. 20 for picnic**

The Patch Ski Club will hold a fall picnic Sept. 20 from 1-4 p.m. at Husky Field on Patch Barracks. The picnic will feature a live Bavarian-style band, food and drink. Participants will be able to sign up for winter ski trips.

For more information, visit [www.patchskiclub.com](http://www.patchskiclub.com).

**TRICARE Online**

Register for TRICARE Online and book appointments online at <https://www.tricare-online.com>.

The TRICARE Online administrator is available at 371-2768/civ. 06221-17-2768 for problems or questions.

**Muppets will visit Stuttgart Oct. 2**

The Sesame Street USO Experience for Military Families is part of Sesame Workshop's Talk, Listen, Connect initiative, a military outreach program for military families with young children experiencing the effects of deployment. Live character performances will be held Oct. 2 at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the Patch Fitness Center gymnasium.

For more information, call 430-2110/civ. 0711-680-2110.

**Ramstein Welfare Bazaar scheduled**

The 45th annual Ramstein Welfare Bazaar will be held Sept. 17 to Sept. 21 with more than 130 vendors from all over Europe.

For more information and opening times, visit the Web site at [www.ramstein-bazaar.org](http://www.ramstein-bazaar.org) for details.

**Pfennig Bazaar needs volunteers**

The German-American Women's Club of Stuttgart is seeking volunteers for the annual Pfennig Bazaar Oct. 16-17. Proceeds from the bazaar support a variety of German and American organizations.

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 civ. 0151-5821-4828 or 0712-795-7235.

**Commissary to hold case lot sale**

The Patch Commissary will hold a worldwide case lot sale Sept. 25-27.

**Announcements are now online**

The expanded version of the Community Announcements is now online at [www.stuttgart.army.mil](http://www.stuttgart.army.mil). Click on the Community Announcements link.



**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](http://www.daz.org) )

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

# *Panthers ... ready to pounce!*

Story & photos by Susan Huseman  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

The Patch High School Panthers are out to prove themselves this year. The fall sports season gets underway this month, and while the football, tennis, cross country, golf and volleyball coaches say it's too early to make any predictions, they are not afraid to point out their hopefuls.

The Panthers tennis team took first place in Region III play last year. Walter Fritz, head tennis coach, looks to the returning players to pilot the team this year. "Holly Martin should do well in singles, and we hope to hone the skills of doubles team Donna Smales and Sara Reynolds," Fritz said.

For the men, Fritz said there are many talented players vying for the top spot, but he expects juniors Jon Lightner, Charlie Schoonover, Justin McManus, senior, and Nick Pugh, freshman, to be serious contenders.

With more than 30 golfers on the roster, coach Phil Carson has doubled the size of his team this year. "We have a lot of beginning and young golfers, but we do have a good core of experienced junior and senior golfers," he added.

He expects seniors Ryan Brady and Timi Huang to represent the Panthers in the European championships this year, as well as Victoria Harvey and Meridith Menzel. Misty Anderson, a senior who transferred to PHS this year from Seattle, Wash., is also expected to be a strong contributor.

With four returning varsity players and plenty of talented freshmen and sophomores in the wings, volleyball coach Todd Taylor said this year's squad is looking to be one of the best that Patch High School has fielded for several years. "I'm looking forward to some great defense and offense," he said. "Some of these girls are going to crush the ball all season long."

Head football coach Brian Hill is not looking to crush his opponents, but rather improve upon last year's 0-6 record. "We have a lot of talent. I think, with some work, these kids can have a much better season than they've had in the past couple years," said Hill, who taught at Kadena High School in Okinawa last year.

Forty-two out of the more than 80 PHS players on the roster attended the Department of Defense Dependents Schools football camp in Ansbach last month.

Julius Rich, Kenny Hall and Mike Nichol are strong, standout players, according to Hill. "But I can't make any predictions right now," he said. "The guys are buying into the program. They're motivated."

For cross country, seniors Brandon Crytzer, Zach Decker, Cole Garraghty, Kylie Springer and Alexis Harrison, junior, return to take care of unfinished business — a win at the European championships. Last year, the men's team took second, while the women's team placed third.

"I think we'll do very well against the other schools," said Karla Young-Phillips, the assistant cross country coach. "We've got a lot of strong runners."

Win or lose, the coed cheerleading squad will be promoting school spirit and motivating the Panther players and fans.

"You'll see us mostly at the football games, but we try and support all athletic events," said coach Heather Slaughter. She said the squad will be training for the championships, to be held in February.



The Patch High School Panthers defensive line takes a lap during practice Sept. 3. More than 80 students came out for the team this year.



Claralyn Burt, right, launches into the air to spike the ball as Jessica Ledbetter tries to block the shot during practice Sept. 9 in the Patch High School gymnasium. Both players are juniors.



The Panthers cheerleading squad practices "extension" and "scorpion" stunts during a Sept. 9 practice in the Patch Fitness Center.



Returning players Charlie Schoonover (left) and Jon Lightner, both juniors, train as a doubles team during practice Sept. 9.



Members of the Panthers golf team practice on the driving range at the Stuttgart Golf Course Sept. 10.



Members of the Patch High School men's and women's cross country team run laps Sept. 11 as part of the team's fundraising efforts. The cross country team ran for two hours around the Husky Field track to raise money for a sports banquet and awards.



Senior Jeff Zeller works on his running skills during practice Sept. 3.



Patch High School sophomore Holly Martin, left, and Sara Reynolds, junior, team up during practice on Patch Barracks Sept. 11. Last year, the PHS tennis team took first place at regionals.

## Patch High School Fall Sports Schedule

Golf	Tennis	Cross Country	Football	Volleyball
Sept. 17 — at Bamberg	Sept. 19 — at Vilseck	Sept. 19 — at Weisbaden	Sept. 19 — at Kaiserslautern	Sept. 19 — at Vilseck
Sept. 24 — at Heidelberg	Sept. 26 — Home vs. BFA	Sept. 26 — Off	Sept. 26 — Home vs. Unicorns	Sept. 26 — Home
Oct. 1 — at Vilseck	Oct. 3 — at Hohenfels	Oct. 3 — at Hohenfels	Oct. 3 — Home vs. Weisbaden	Oct. 3 — at Bamberg
Oct. 8 — Home	Oct. 10 — Home vs. Bamberg	Oct. 10 — at Vilseck	Oct. 10 — at Lakenhealth	Oct. 10 — at Vilseck
Oct. 15-16 — European Championships at Wiesbaden	Oct. 17 — at Heidelberg	Oct. 17 — at Bamberg	Oct. 17 — at Heidelberg	Oct. 17 — at Bamberg
	Oct. 24 — Home* vs. Ansbach	Oct. 24 — Home*	Oct. 24 — Home* vs. Vilseck	Oct. 24 — Home*
	Oct. 31 — European Championships at Wiesbaden	Oct. 31 — European Championships at Heidelberg	Oct. 31 — To be determined	Oct. 31 — at Black Forest Academy
			Nov. 7 — Super Six at Baumholder	Nov. 5-7 — European Championships at KMC

\* Homecoming

# Venice in 48 hours: a quick guide to the water city

Story & photo by Jesse M. Granger  
Special to *The Citizen*

Venice is commonly referred to as the most romantic city in all of Italy. For all its winding walkways, story-book architecture and city-on-the-sea appeal, it is, without a doubt, one of the “can’t miss” destinations for the Europe-centric traveler.

But an extended vacation in the City of Bridges is expensive, and a weak dollar only adds to the cost.

However, even with Venice’s high prices, it is possible to visit on a budget. By performing a quick check of one of many online travel search engines, you can find regular round-trip flights out of Stuttgart in the \$150 to \$300 range.

However, once you’ve touched down, finding a deal on accommodations can be more challenging. Hotels range from \$200 to \$350 per night for two-star accommodations to upwards of \$600 a night if you’re looking to splurge on a five-star hotel.

With authentic Italian pizza and pasta, and an abundance of fresh seafood, there’s no shortage of eating options.

But be sure to check the prices beforehand though, as meals can go for as much as a few hundred euros in one sitting, with surcharges for hearing live music or just sitting outside.

Add it all up, and just a couple of nights in Venice could leave you floored when the credit card bill



*Gondolas and water taxis provide visitors to Venice with a breathtaking view and welcome break from walking.*

comes, if you’re not careful.

Avid shoppers will appreciate the choices available in Venice, from high-end designer-brand handbags and the more reasonably priced knock-offs, to the most gaudy tourist trinkets.

The must-see sights in Venice are a relatively short list, thanks to the island’s small size. At the top is the Basilica di San Marco, the cathedral of Venice. Even the Byzantine architecture in the Piazza San Marco offers one of the most breathtaking views in all of Italy.

Other “can’t miss” spots include the Grand Canal (which you literally can’t miss), the Gallerie dell’Accademia, a museum containing masterpieces of Venetian painting up to the 18th century, and the Rialto Bridge, the most

famous bridge in the city, and the first across the Grand Canal.

There’s plenty more to take in, but checking out the top three to five attractions can easily be accomplished in just a single day, making Venice an ideal locale for an abbreviated trip.

Brief or not, be prepared to lace up your most comfortable walking shoes to explore this city. Venice is the world’s only pedestrian city, which means most of your travel will be done on foot.

The lack of cars, honking horns and smog helps the city’s image as an untouched relic from centuries past. However, after a couple days of pounding the cobblestones, you’re going to want a break.

The most ready form of relief

comes by way of water travel. Gondola rides and water taxis are hard to miss. The gondola provides a scenic trip for those looking to slow down and enjoy the surroundings, while the water taxi is a quicker, cheaper way of getting to the other side of the island.

It’s nearly impossible to leave without sore feet, but walking, getting lost, and walking some more are all a part of an authentic Venetian experience.

There’s no doubt that Venice is one of the top vacation destinations in Europe, if not the world. Thanks to the short list of sights, easy-to-cover distance and high cost, it’s also an optimal choice for time-crunched travelers looking to cram an unforgettable experience into a weekend.

## Tübingen offers history, education, old world charm

Story and photo by Birgit Thompson  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The university town of Tübingen is divided in more ways than one: the Neckar River flows through it, separating the old section of town from the new.

It’s blend of history and modern culture has made it a unique tourist stop, as well as a residence for thinkers and poets.

Even though there is no campus, a dining hall that looks remotely like its American equivalent or even a lecture hall, the whole city is labeled “the University.”

Established in the 1400s by the Catholic Church as a theological academy, the university was established as an institution solely reserved for men. Monks discussed questions about God and life with their students in Latin or Greek.

Today, the university offers more than 140 different degrees, including medical professions, art, music, law, Japanese studies and more. Students from all over the world come here to learn.

Tübingen’s international culture can be seen and felt when strolling along the cobblestone streets that weave through the town’s center. Italian ice cream parlors, Turkish and Greek restaurants and other ethnic stores are tucked within the mix of small shops

lining the narrow streets.

The city of Tübingen has preserved many of its historical buildings, such as the university, which adds to the charm of its small alleyways and old wood-frame houses.

The historical Marktplatz hosts an open-air market on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

“This is where the local farmers offer their produce and products,” said Elisabeth Tielsch, a city tour guide. “Some of the vendors are private folks who grow some stuff in their garden and then sell it here.”

Street musicians add to the unusual atmosphere of this market, which also offers fresh bread, eggs, meats and flowers.

A ride in the Stocherkahn (small punt boats) is also very popular in Tübingen. The narrow boats glide up and down the Neckar River. From the boats, riders can view a picturesque little island in the middle of town and the remnants of the old city walls.

Tielsch, who is not a native to Tübingen, once studied American culture here in town and now gives tours in English. “I try to make the tours interesting for everyone,” she said, but there is one challenge: there is just too much to see and explore.



*Musicians at the market square play a lively tune.*

For more information, visit [www.tuebingen.de](http://www.tuebingen.de).

# Wine, beer festivals abound in September

## Festivals and more

### • Ongoing until Sept. 19 — Heilbronn — International summer street theatre festival

International street artists will fill the streets of the downtown area during this festival.

### • Sept. 19 — Pfullingen — Celler nights

The cellars of the city will be the stages for several events during this festival.

### • Ongoing until Sept. 20 — Stuttgart — European music festival

More than 30 concerts at various locations participate in this event. For more information, visit [www.musikfest.de](http://www.musikfest.de).

### • Sept. 18-20 — Esslingen am Neckar — Cultural festival

The festival takes place in the historic part of town.

### • Sept. 19-20 — Castle Hohenzollern — Falkner's festival

The festival is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the castle.

### • Sept. 19-20 — Dornhan — farmers autumn festival

This festival is located at the Kaltenhof in the city section of Leinstetten.

### • Sept. 19-20 — Gomadingen — Butchers festival

Local butchers celebrate their profession by offering fresh products from their shops. There will be food, music and entertainment at the Festplatz, in the city section of Dapfen.

### • Sept. 19-20 — Leonberg — Old city spectacle

This festival offers concerts, vintage vehicles and more at the Kirchplatz and in the downtown area.

### • Sept. 19-20 — Lorch — Medieval Staufer festival

This festival takes place at the Kloster Lorch.

### • Sept. 19-20 — Neuffen — Wine festival

The festival is located at the Marktscheuer.

### • Sept. 19-20 — Sachsenheim — Summer Special

This wine village is located at the Äusseren Schloshof in Grosssachsenheim.

### • Sept. 20 — Oppenweiler — Pumpkin festival

This culinary festival takes place at the Schlossstrasse.

### • Sept. 20 — Reutlingen — 150 years of trains

This train station festival is located at the Westbahnhof.

### • Sept. 20 — Schwäbisch Hall — Friendship days

This international festival takes place at the Marktplatz.

### • Sept. 20 — Stuttgart — Off Base English Theatre

The Off Base English Theatre celebrates their first anniversary with an encore performance of Christopher Durang's "Laughing Wild."

Curtains open at 7:30 p.m. at the Kulturwerk in east Stuttgart. For more details, check out the theatre web site, at [www.obetheatre.com](http://www.obetheatre.com).

The performance is in English. "Laughing Wild" is not intended for audiences under 16 years of age.

### • Sept. 20 — Tübingen — City run

This event starts at the Friedrichstrasse at the Zinser-Dreieck.

### • Sept. 20 — Waiblingen — Remstal-Classics

Vintage automobiles and other vehicles are displayed through out the downtown area.

### • Sept. 21 — Besigheim — Wine festival

The historical city center is the location for this annual wine festival.

### • Sept. 18-21 — Esslingen am Neckar — Wine festival

This festival is located at the Kelter in the city section of Mettingen.

### • Sept. 19-21 — Stuttgart — Wine festival

The festival is located at the Kelter of the Weinmanufaktur in the Strümpfelbacherstrasse in Untertürkheim.

### • Sept. 19-21 — Walldorfhäslach — Kirbe

This traditional festival offers a fairground at the Festplatz at the Freizeitzentrum Weiherwiesen.

### • Sept. 26 — Bietigheim — Bietigheim XXL

Culture meets culinary delights in the old section of town.

### • Sept. 25-27 — Horb am Neckar — Neckar River week

The market and festival is located at the Festplatzgelände.

### • Sept. 25-27 — Rottenburg am Neckar — Medieval festival

The festival takes place in the Stadtgraben, daily from 10 a.m.

### • Sept. 25-27 — Weinstadt — Wine festival

The Genossenschaftskeller in Strümpfelbach is the location of this festival.

### • Sept. 26-27 — Neuenstein — Fall festival

The festival takes place at the Bahnhofstrasse.

### • Sept. 26-27 — Schorndorf — Wine festival

This festival takes place at the

Kelter am Grafenberg.

### • Sept. 27 — Wiesensteig — Potato festival

This festival is located at the Schloshof.

### • Sept. 25-28 — Beilstein — Wine festival

The Amalienhof in Söhlbach is the location of this festival.

### • Sept. 25-28 — Weinsberg — Wine festival

This festival is located at the Graiser Hang.

### • Sept. 26-28 — Kirchheim am Neckar — Wine festival

The wine festival is located at the Alten Kelter.

## Markets and more

### • Sept. 19 — Schorndorf — Art nights

Art galleries, museums and studios are open until late at night.

### • Sept. 20 — Köngen — Fall and Roman market

This market and festival is located at the Römerpark.

### • Sept. 20 — Stuttgart — Fall market

This flea market at the Karlsplatz, Schiller and Marktplatz opens the fall season.

### • Sept. 20 — Ludwigsburg — Lake Concert

The concert takes place at Castle Monrepos.

### • Ongoing until Sept. 20 — Bruchsal — Autumn market

This festival and market is located at the Messplatz.

### • Ongoing until Sept. 20 — Tübingen — Umbrian and Provanca market

Tübingen's partner cities in France and Italy introduce their regions to visitors in the downtown area.

### • Ongoing until Sept. 20 — Stuttgart — Table tennis European championship

The competition is located at the Porsche-Arena in Bad Cannstatt.

### • Sept. 21 — Sachsenheim — Variety market

This market is located in the city center.

### • Sept. 22 — Herrenberg — Fall market

This market is located in the old part of town.

### • Sept. 24-28 — Bretten — Wine market

This market and festival is located in the pedestrian area of downtown.

### • Sept. 26 — Korntal-Münchingen — Münchinger market

This market is located at the Hauptstrasse in Münchingen.

### • Sept. 26-27 — Böblingen — Swabian market

This market is located at the Elbenplatz at the Unteren See.

### • Sept. 26-27 — Grossbottwar — Historical market

Life in the Middle Ages comes alive during this market located in the historical downtown area.

### • Sept. 26-27 — Ludwigsburg — Antique mile

This antique market and international food festival is located in the downtown area.

### • Sept. 26-27 — Weil der Stadt — Culinary market

The market features international foods at the Marktplatz.

### • Sept. 27 — Bad Urach — Musical market

This farmers and antique market is located in the downtown area.

### • Sept. 25 to Oct. 11 — Stuttgart — Volksfest



The 164th Volksfest opens its gates on Sept. 25 at noon. The festival is open daily from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and is located on the Wasen in Bad Cannstatt. Visitors can take the S-2 and S-3 trains from Vaihingen to the Bad Cannstatt-Bahnhof, or local train U-11 from the Hauptbahnhof directly to the fest ground.

## SPORTS SHORTS

### Girls' open tryouts for Disney Soccer Showcase Sept. 20

The Olympic Development Program-Europe will hold open tryouts for girls for the 2009 Disney Soccer Showcase in Orlando, Fla., Sept. 20 in Tiefenbach. Tryouts will be held for U15-U16 and U17-U18 teams.

Players should wear appropriate soccer attire, including cleats and shin guards, and bring a soccer ball. For more information, e-mail kniki-castr@hotmail.com or call civ. 0160-331-5588.

### Register for CYS Services winter sports season

Register your children for Child, Youth and School Services' wrestling, cheerleading and basketball Oct. 1-30 at Central Enrollment and Registration, Building 2347, Patch Barracks.

Participants must be enrolled with CYS Services and have a valid physical through March 15 in order to register. For more information, call 430-7480/civ. 0711-680-7480 or e-mail stuttgartcys@googlegmail.com.

### Aikido class available for kids

Aikido martial arts for kids ages 8-15 starts Sept. 14. Classes will be held Monday from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Patch Fitness Center and Wednesday from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Patch Hub.

Newcomers can try it, free of charge. The cost is \$90 for two months. Participants must be enrolled in Child, Youth and School Services to participate.

Register at Central Enrollment and Registration in Building 2347 on Patch Barracks. For more information, call 430-7480/civ. 0711-680-7480.

### Stuttgart course sponsors fall golf scramble

The Stuttgart Golf Course will host a fall scramble Oct. 3. The shotgun start is at 10 a.m. For more information, call civ. 0714-187-9151.

### Great Pumpkin Run on Oct. 24

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host the "Great Pumpkin Run" Oct. 24 at 10 a.m.

Participants can register starting Sept. 28 in the Patch Fitness Center. The entry fee for the 5 or 10 kilometer run is \$12 for individuals, \$30 for families. The first 300 registered runners will receive a T-shirt. The deadline to register is 9 a.m. on race day.

For more information, call 430-5386/civ. 0711-680-5386.



www.flickr.com/photos/cism-canada

Nate Durham, a member of the U.S. Armed Forces swimming team, waits at the start to begin a race during the 43rd Military Swimming and Lifesaving Championships in Montreal, Quebec, last month.

## Stuttgart Marine coaches military swim team at international competition

By Brittany Carlson

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

For Maj. Greg Burgess, a day at the pool is a day well-spent.

Unfortunately, the former Olympian doesn't often get those kinds of days in Stuttgart — he works for the U.S. Africa Command Fire Cell on Kelley Barracks, a 40-minute drive from the pool.

So, when the 43rd Military Swimming and Lifesaving Championships in Montreal rolled around last month, Burgess was only too happy to go along — even if he wasn't doing the swimming.

Burgess, a Marine, acted as chief of mission for the U.S. Armed Forces team, which competed against 175 athletes from 18 countries in the competition Aug. 5-14. Besides representing the team at official ceremonies, Burgess helped coach and advise the team.

He was more than qualified: Burgess' swimming resume includes earning a silver medal at the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, and setting four American swimming records: two in the 200 individual medley and two in the 400 IM. Still, he said, this year's U.S. team made his job easy.

"They did a hell of a lot more than I did," he said. "It was such a great group of people."

The team of eight (Marines, Navy and Air Force service members from all over the world) won five medals in the lifeguarding category, including one gold medal.

The team, none of which had prior lifeguarding



Maj. Greg Burgess

experience, set a record for the number of medals won by an American team in a single competition.

Burgess' proudest moment, however, was when the team won the sportsmanship trophy, another first for the American team.

The award is the crown jewel of the entire event, created to promote "friendship through sport."

"The young officers and NCOs did a phenomenal job of engaging other swimmers from other countries," Burgess said. "They got to know a lot of them."

They did fall behind in the other swimming events, but Burgess attributed this to less training time than their international counterparts, often reservists, had.

Nevertheless, the U.S. team members competed in all 16 swimming events, and three became finalists.

When they weren't swimming, the team participated in events, such as a culture day, touring Montreal's underground tunnels and malls with other teams.

"I hope to do this next year," Burgess said. "I wouldn't mind making it a regular thing. It was a lot of fun."

For more information on the Military Swimming and Lifesaving World Championships, visit [www.cism-milSPORT.org](http://www.cism-milSPORT.org).



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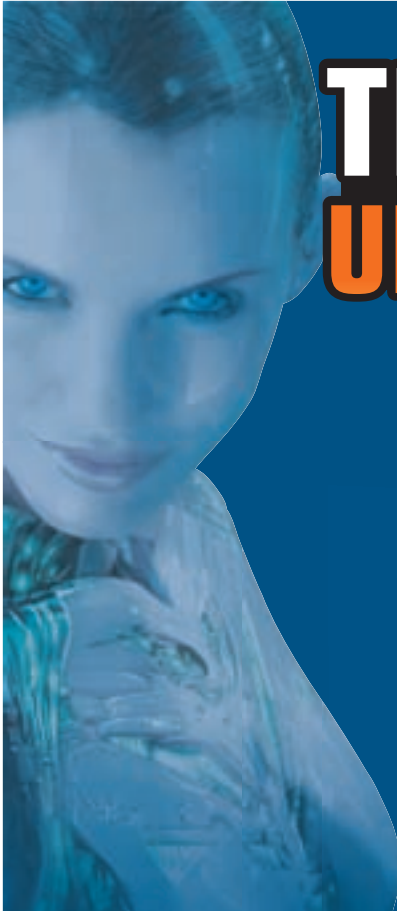
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