

Community Outreach: together, keeping the promise

Commentary by Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch
Installation Management Command commander

As our Soldiers and families persevere in their service to the nation, it is heartening to know that we are not in this alone — our fellow citizens want to understand what we are experiencing and support us where they can.



Lt. Gen. Lynch

That is why reaching out to the communities around us is so vitally important.

The Army has a history filled with supportive relationships with communities that surround our installations. The Army has also developed strong relationships with local, state and national organizations that provide a wide range of support for

Soldiers and families.

These relationships are more critical than ever.

The Army cannot always offer the most comprehensive assistance for the challenges that our Soldiers and families face. This is especially true for National Guard, active reserve and active component Soldiers and families who live far from installations.

The need for support and the demand on our resources require us to reach out to those who can help us keep the Army Family Covenant promise: to take care of Soldiers and families. A volunteer, local service provider or a state or national organization may be able to offer the expertise, assistance and support services that fill critical needs.

Their support has become so important that the Army Community Covenant was launched in April 2008 to formalize and facilitate these relationships.

To date, communities in 49 states, three territories and the District of Columbia have conducted more than 500

covenant signing ceremonies, pledging to find ways to enhance the quality of life for Soldiers and families.

These ceremonies recognize and celebrate the communities' commitments, but they are not an end in themselves. They are an important step in taking action to link support to specific Soldier and family needs.

The first step in effective community outreach begins with building strong, real relationships.

Americans are inspired to offer their support when they learn more about military life and gain a deeper understanding of the personal challenges that Soldiers and families experience.

It is crucial that Army leaders make every effort to get to know local leaders and invite them and community members to attend events on post. Army leaders must also be prepared to answer when local leaders ask, "How can we help?"

I know what the power of community support can do for Soldiers and their families.

When I was the III Corps and Fort Hood commander, I worked to establish a Resiliency Campus, which gathered a number of programs in one location in support of Soldiers' and families' mental, spiritual and physical well-being.

As senior commander, I was able to dedicate the space and ensure that infrastructure improvements were made, but it was the embrace of the community outside the gate — their contributions of materials, services and expertise — that made the campus a reality.

Our communities are eager to meet us halfway. They readily and generously express their gratitude and support for our Soldiers and families.

The challenge is to clearly communicate our needs and facilitate their support for us.

The support and contributions from our communities will enable us to keep our promise to provide Soldiers and families a quality of life commensurate with their service.

MPs receive deployment awards

Lt. Col. Roger P. Hedgepeth, 709th Military Police Battalion commander, pins an Army Commendation Medal on Sgt. Edward Hinsberger, a 554th Military Police Company Soldier in 2nd Platoon, during an awards ceremony held July 26 in the Panzer Fitness Center. The 554th MP Co. returned from a 12-month deployment to Afghanistan in May. During the ceremony, Staff Sgt. Joseph Haskell received a Bronze Star and an ARCOM with V device for his actions during a fire fight when his vehicle was hit by an IED in November 2009; 129 Soldiers received ARCOMs, 14 Soldiers received the Bronze Star for service, and four received the Military Service Medal.



Martin Greeson

INSIDE THIS EDITION

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VBS delivers Bible lessons, ocean fun

This summer's Vacation Bible School took U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart children on a "High Seas Expedition" in search of adventure and biblical truths.



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Snorkeling, scuba and Soldiers

Soldiers dive into adventure with the new Army program, Warrior Adventure Quest, designed to help them readjust to normal life after a deployment.



Commander's Column

Looking forward: continuing Stuttgart traditions

Commentary by Col. Carl D. Bird
USAG Stuttgart commander

My family and I want to thank the entire Stuttgart community for the warm welcome we received at the change of command ceremony.



Col. Bird

From the moment we stepped off the plane, we have received nothing but outstanding support and understanding from everyone.

Although I have only been here for a short period of time, I have had the opportunity to visit many of the garrison facilities and talk with their staffs.

I have met many of our tenant unit commands and look forward to meeting them all.

We have an outstanding relationship with our host nation neighbors, and I look forward to meeting them and continuing to forge strong bonds of

With these diverse service demographics come different viewpoints on how things should and could be done. I look forward to embracing the different ideas and finding the common ground that utilizes the strengths of all without turning any away.

friendship during my tenure here.

I have found Stuttgart to be a diverse community that is not only home to many Soldiers and their families, but also home to service members from all branches of the military.

With these diverse service demographics come different viewpoints on how things should and could be done. I look forward to embracing the different ideas and finding the common ground that utilizes the strengths of all, without turning any away.

It won't be easy, but I have a seasoned garrison staff that has been actively pursuing this same goal.

With the aid of some feedback mechanisms, I believe we will continue to improve our quality of life

here in Stuttgart.

I consider the Interactive Customer Evaluation program my weekly after-action review of whether or not we are providing the level of service expected of us.

I read every ICE submission and have seen actions initiated on many of them by the garrison staff.

I know that some people prefer to remain anonymous, but I encourage everyone who submits an ICE comment card to provide us with their contact information so we can provide them with direct feedback. I have asked to have more ICE feedback mechanisms placed throughout our operations so I can get a better feel for what works and what does not.

As this is my first assignment in Germany, I've come to realize that the awareness we all must maintain here is much different than at stateside installations.

The Army's iWatch and antiterrorism programs are ideal vehicles for promoting vigilance among community members, especially in the areas of personal security and safety. At the same time, the programs enrich community members with the knowledge of what to look for and who to call when they notice something out of the ordinary. I encourage everyone to become familiar with these programs.

Hope and I are blessed to be assigned here and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

THE CITIZEN

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U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander

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ON THE STREET

What was the highlight of your summer?



Petty Officer 1st Class
Grace Britos
(U.S. Navy)

"Going home on vacation."



Travis Liquori
(Family member)

"Going to Amsterdam."



Tanja Sanders
(Spouse)

"Visiting family."



Spc. Sparticus
Worswick
(U.S. Army)

"Going to Europapark."



Bruce Zabukovic
(Civilian)

"Teaching new and exciting things, and seeing people's reactions [through ODR]."



Michelle Torgersen
(Spouse)

"Going to Scotland."



Staff Sgt. Fredrick
Sullivan
(U.S. Army)

"Paragliding."



Erin Clause
(Family member)

"Hanging out with friends."

Army standardizes child care fees; change in cost begins Oct. 1

By Rob McIlvaine

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation
Public Affairs Office

Beginning Oct. 1, most Army families will see an increase in their child care fees, while others will see a reduction or no change in fees for school year 2010/2011, as a result of a new Department of Defense policy.

According to Maj. Gen. Reuben Jones, commander of the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command, the Army will ensure outstanding child and youth programs.

"Army families will continue to have access to some of the best child and youth programs found anywhere in the world," Jones said.

By law, child care fees are based on total family income (excluding certain special pay and allowances), not rank or civilian grade. In 2008, the Defense Department conducted an in-depth study of the child development program fee policy. As a result, they determined current fee ranges were no longer in sync with total family income for a majority of the users, and the fees have not kept pace with the increasing costs of providing care.

"While the cost of providing child care has risen each of the past six years, the value of the programs has also increased for Soldiers, their children and the Army," said Peggy Hinson, Child, Youth and School Services director at FMWRC.

"Most Army programs are nationally accredited,

Army families will continue to have access to some of the best child and youth programs found anywhere in the world.

Maj. Gen. Reuben Jones
FMWR Command commander

and most importantly, Soldiers can concentrate on their mission, knowing their children are safe and well cared for," she said.

The National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, the country's leading voice for child care, issues a biennial report on the quality of nationwide child care, including the Defense Department's child care system. The 2007 study found that the Defense Department child care system "stands alone as a model for states." In that report, military child care ranked first among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, and was the only entity to score in the top 10 for both standards and oversight criteria.

A 2009 update confirmed that Defense Department child care continues to score more than 60 percent above the national average.

Since 2004, child care fees at most Army garrisons have remained static in an attempt to ease the burden of persistent conflict and multiple deployments. In an effort to minimize the financial impact of fee increases, the Army received approval from the Defense Department to begin a phased-in implementation of this new policy. Individual installations have plans to reach fixed dollar amounts for each fee category within the next three years.

Currently, there are six fee categories, including a minimum fixed-rate and five income-based categories, each with a range of fees determined by the garrison.

The school year 2010/2011 child care fee policy will add three additional categories to more accurately accommodate higher incomes.

Under existing policy, families earning \$70,001 pay the same fees as those making more than \$100,000. The new categories will raise fees incrementally to cover families earning \$125,001 or more annually.

Those earning \$85,000 and below will see smaller increases. Furthermore, some lower-income families will pay reduced fees under the new policy. As always, families with more than one child will receive multiple child reductions, regardless of total family income. This will become an Army-wide standard 15 percent discount for second and subsequent children.

Commanders may authorize additional fee reductions for families with temporary, documented financial hardships. Army Family Covenant fee reductions are in effect while military parents are deployed.

In addition to Child Development Center fees, the Army's 2010/2011 fee policy covers all CYS Services programs, school-age and hourly care, Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills Unlimited programs and youth sports.

News & Notes

Patch students place fourth with team in Disney tourney

Patch High School students Janelle Loney and Shy'kimeyun Alexander participated in the Amateur Athletic Union Girls' National Basketball Championships, taking fourth place along with their team, the Competitive Athletic Sports Europe team. The tournament was held July 5-16 at the Disney World Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, Fla.

For more information on the AAU program, e-mail caseaau@earthlink.net.

Summer enrichment students win online math competition

During the Department of Defense Education Activity Summer Enrichment Program in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart at Patch Elementary School, a combined fourth- and fifth-grade class placed first regularly in the top 50 U.S. schools during the V-Math online math program, part of the Voyager: Kaleidoscope curricular series, a four-week study of fine arts. The V-Math program allowed students to compete in online math challenges with students from around the globe; some USAG Stuttgart students placed in the top 100 U.S. and top 100 world. View a picture of the winning class at www.patch-es.eu.dodea.edu.

SATO travel news

Army Europe official and leisure travelers will be required to use interim procedures as Carlson Wagonlit/SatoTravel re-establishes its commercial travel offices after being re-awarded a two-year travel service contract in late July.

CWT SatoTravel has onsite agents offering limited CTO travel services for travel occurring within 48 hours of the request. Those arranging travel more than 48 hours in advance will be required to use the online reservation request form, found at www.cwtsatotravel.com.

For after-hour emergency and en-route travel assistance, call civ. 001-866-422-9428. For more information, visit www.stuttgart.army.mil and click on "Hot Topics."

MarForEur welcomes new commander in Norfolk, Va.

Lt. Gen. Dennis J. Hejlik assumed command of U.S. Marine Forces Europe from Brig. Gen. Paul W. Brier Aug. 17 during a ceremony in Norfolk, Va. Hejlik also took command of U.S. Marine Forces Command from Lt. Gen. Richard F. Natonski on the same day. He will command all U.S. Marine Corps forces assigned to U.S. European Command from Norfolk.

Brier is now the MarForEur deputy commander and will remain in Stuttgart.

AFRICOM welcomes new deputy to the commander

Vice Admiral Charles J. "Joe" Leidig Jr. assumed duties as the U.S. Africa Command deputy to the commander for Military Operations on Aug. 16. Leidig will oversee the command's military operations and will hold military command authority in the absence of the commander, Gen. William E. "Kip" Ward. Leidig's civilian counterpart is the deputy to the commander for Civil-Military Activities.



Brittany Carlson

Cyndee Durk (from left), 9, Emily Heidenreich, 11, Noelle Matherne, 7, and Amaris Galik, 10, work on clay sculptures during a Child, Youth and School Services EDGE! class in 2009. Starting Oct. 1, 2010, CYS Services child care fees will be standardized, resulting in an increase in fees for most families, or no change/decreased fees for some families. The change in fees is as a result of a new Defense Department policy.

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 sean.marvin@eur.army.mil.

By Capt. Sean A. Marvin (U.S. Army)
Stuttgart Law Center

Q: I'm new to Germany and am sure there are differences between German and American law that I should be aware of. Can you tell me about some of those differences?

A: In general, successfully navigating German law doesn't so much require in-depth knowledge of the law itself as it requires using common sense. That said, there are some differences that are good to know.

Americans living here commonly run into problems with German contracts. When you sign a contract that is in German, and problems later arise, it is not a defense that you did not understand the substance of what you signed. Just as with contracts in America, it is presumed that you've read, understood and consented to anything you've signed. If you do not understand what you're being asked to sign, you are expected to ask someone who is qualified to explain the document to you before you sign it.

Further, unlike in America, German contracts typically renew automatically, unless one party informs the other party within a certain time — typically three months before the contract is set to expire — that he or she does not wish for the contract to renew. Not knowing about such a requirement could cause you to be stuck in your contract and left paying the bill for an extended period of time.

Separately, most individuals living in Germany are subject to a tax for any dogs that they own (the "Hundesteuer"), as well as another tax for any televisions and radios they own. The NATO Status of Forces Agreement, however, generally protects U.S. ID cardholders from those taxes.

Should you live off-post and have a person knock on your door and ask to count the number of dogs you own, request that he or she show proper identification. Explain your status and that you are not subject to the tax. Because the people who are hired to go door-to-door are often unfamiliar with the NATO SOFA, you might nevertheless receive a letter assessing you with a tax. If you do, bring that document to the Stuttgart Law Center, where someone will help communicate to the proper authorities that you need not pay.

Finally, although Germany is known for its Autobahns and fast cars, also know that speed cameras are common throughout the country.

Being caught speeding will not only lead to a ticket but, if you are caught going significantly above the speed limit, can lead to the suspension of your driver's license.

Likewise, being caught running a red light in Germany will also result in an automatic suspension of your license and a mandatory fine.

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.



Civil Air Patrol Cadet Staff Sgt. Christian Meyer (left) and Civil Air Patrol Captain Luis Bispo (center) look on as Nicholas Pierson signs up to join Stuttgart's new CAP flight at an informational booth Aug. 14.

Col. Joseph Mancy

Civil Air Patrol cadet flight takes off in Stuttgart

By Brittany Carlson
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

This fall, the Stuttgart military community will have its own Civil Air Patrol cadet flight.

CAP is a congressionally chartered, non-profit volunteer organization and the civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. The cadet program teaches teens ages 12-18 about aerospace, emergency services, physical fitness, leadership skills and management.

The Stuttgart flight will fall under the Ramstein Air Base cadet squadron.

"It's like the Boy Scouts with an aviation twist to it," said Col. Joseph Mancy, an Air Force pilot working for U.S. Africa Command and a volunteer who is helping to stand up the local CAP flight.

Stuttgart CAP meetings are set for every Monday from 5:30–7 p.m. at the Religious Education Center on Patch Barracks. The first meeting will be Sept. 13.

Similar to the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program, CAP is designed to prepare students for possible careers with any branch of the U.S. military. Cadets will be trained in land navigation, marches and drills, along with physical fitness.

In the U.S., these skills help CAP units as they assist in real search and rescue missions. However, since the Stuttgart flight is overseas, cadets here will only be able to participate in emergency training scenarios on post. They will learn about host nation emergency management from German emergency management personnel.

"Every meeting is something different," said Sgt. Major Luis Bispo, an AFRICOM Soldier and CAP officer who helped bring CAP to U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart. For example, during one meeting, cadets may learn about how to make ethical decisions from garrison chaplains. During another, they may learn how to become positive role models from CAP officers, NCOs or civilians.

"[Cadets] will learn management skills," Bispo said. "They'll learn how to manage their studies. It's basically about self discipline ... and they'll learn how to take charge."

They'll even learn to fly an airplane with Rick Cacini, a private "orientation" pilot for CAP and contractor working for U.S. Africa Command, if logistics allow.

You pay to go to school to learn the basics of flying. In CAP, you learn for free.

Sgt. Major Luis Bispo
CAP officer,
Stuttgart CAP cadet flight founder

According to Cacini, each cadet will fly seven one-hour flights each year, in the cockpit with the pilot, out of Ramstein AFB.

"You pay to go to school to learn the basics of flying," Bispo said. "In CAP, you learn for free."

Bispo's son, 18-year-old Lucas, has been a CAP cadet for five years and considers learning to fly "one of the best experiences you could have."

"When you're up in the sky, it's quieter," said Lucas Bispo, cadet first sergeant for the Stuttgart flight. "You also get to look at things from a different perspective."

Stuttgart cadets may also take a C-130 ride during the annual CAP encampment, which includes physical training and a visit to military facilities.

CAP cadets and officers have ranks and uniforms similar to those used by the U.S. Air Force. If a cadet reaches the rank of cadet second lieutenant, after completing the "enlisted phase" of the program, he or she receives the Mitchell Award — "a good ticket to any of the three services' military academies," Luis Bispo said.

Many CAP cadets go on to pursue careers in aviation, space or the military, according to the CAP website, www.gocivilairpatrol.com.

For Lucas Bispo, who is considering a military career, the CAP program is an ideal introduction to military service because it promotes teamwork. "Each person has a unique job they have to do and [they] rely on each other," he said.

To join or volunteer, call Sgt. Maj. Bispo at 421-4447/civ. 0711-729-4447. All CAP volunteers must be U.S. citizens with SOFA status.

Finance course teaches mind over money

By **Brittany Carlson**

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Shay Edwards was broke and at the end of his rope.

When he and his family joined the Stuttgart military community in July 2009, they were immediately “overcome” with bills, such as paying up-front for a hotel stay and renting a car while house hunting.

Edwards put all of the tabs on his credit cards. Soon, debt became unmanageable.

“By December, we were at our wits’ end,” he said. “Years and years of bad habits had caught up with us. We were missing payments ... some for several months. We were just out there struggling.”

“It was the worst feeling I’ve ever had, and I never want to be there again,” he added.

That’s when a friend told Edwards about Financial Peace University, a worldwide money management program available in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart.

The next class begins Sept. 7 and meets every Tuesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Patch Religious Education Center (Building 2332) on Patch Barracks. The class is open to all community members.

FPU is a 13-week video course taught by best-selling author and financial guru Dave Ramsey, followed by mediated discussions. Ramsey teaches students to better manage their money by getting out of debt, saving and giving to others in need.

The Stuttgart military version, sponsored by the garrison Religious Support Office, was brought to Stuttgart in early 2009 by two family members — Army spouse Gina Starrett and Air Force spouse Kristiann Saunders, a financial coach. Since then, 74 FPU students have paid back a combined total of \$390,000 of debt and saved a total of \$90,000.

Edwards and his wife paid off \$13,500 worth of debt.

“Now, we’re keeping [within] our budget,” he added.

The program focuses on changing a person’s spending behaviors through budgeting and goal-setting.

For Sgt. 1st Class Chrysti Lassiter-Jones, a USAG Stuttgart Soldier, this meant giving up morning cappuccinos and eating in more often.

“I became more disciplined,” she said. “This made me realize where I was throwing money away.”

In the classes, Ramsey also discusses how to avoid credit sharks, buy and sell a home and invest.

Stuttgart program team leaders, including Starrett, Saunders and co-facilitators Jackie Nasca and Gary Kaczmarek, say learning to put your finances in order is key to living a peaceful, debt-free life.

“The physical feeling of freedom and independence — it’s a phenomenal high,” Starrett said. “It’s like nothing you can experience if you’ve gone through your whole life owing people money.”

To help others reach this goal, the course gives participants a forum for discussing their spending habits.

“Some of what makes this type of program so distinctive is [Ramsey’s] understanding and his presentation on the behavioral and emotional side of spending money,” Starrett said. “Men

and women look at money and security differently.”

This is one reason why program facilitators encourage families and couples to attend together, even if one member is deployed (they can take FPU online).

“We talk about it with each other; it’s not just a checkbook system,” Starrett added.

Edwards, too, appreciated the class’ effect on his marriage. “Really, what it did more than anything, was it brought [my wife and I] onto the same sheet of music,” he said.

“Before starting this class, you think you’re going to be in debt until you die,” he said. “Now, I’ve changed my whole mind-set. I’m going to pay off my debts. I have a date: August 2012. All the money I make is going to go where I want it to go, not to [lenders].”

For more information or to sign up, call 430-5193/civ. 0711-680-5193, or e-mail FPUstuttgart@yahoo.com. A donation of \$50 per family for E-5 and above is suggested. Child care is available.

Garrison news is now available via e-mail. To sign up for news flashes and briefs, send an e-mail to stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil, with the subject: “add me to your mailing list.”



International Baptist Church of Stuttgart
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Kridha Budaya Sari dancer Helena Pfau performs an Indonesian dance while wearing a traditional costume during the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Family Fair, held in conjunction with the C.A.R.E. Fair, Aug. 21, inside the Panzer Mall.



Col. Joseph Nancy



Larry Reilly

Col. Carl D. Bird, garrison commander, opens the Community Activities, Registration and Education Fair, with the help of Army Community Service employees Aug. 21.



Susan Huseman

[Right] Benjamin "Pop" Wilson leads gospel singers (from left) Tanya Young, Derrick Roberts, Herb Adkins and Theresa Burnett in song during the AAFES Family Fair. [Above] Jenny Ratliff has the audience select the winners of the karaoke contest.



Col. Joseph Nancy

C.A.R.E., Family Fairs bring Stuttgart community together

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

More than 1,000 community members attended both the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart C.A.R.E. Fair and Army and Air Force Exchange Service Family Fair, held Aug. 21 on Panzer Kaserne.

The Community Activities, Reg-

istration and Education Fair hosted 80 garrison agencies and organizations inside a fest tent, creating a "one-stop shop" for residents to find information on activities and support programs.

At the Family Fair, held inside the Panzer Mall, community members were the main event, showcasing cultural and musical groups, along with some karaoke talent.

Jeff Sweeney (right), antiterrorism/physical security officer, hands out giveaways at the Antiterrorism/Force Protection Office's booth during the C.A.R.E. Fair Aug. 21.

Rita Reilly



Survey lets you rate garrison services

Installation Management Command

Customer service can make or break an organization.

If your household goods shipment is delayed, but the transportation specialist is friendly and informative, you are likely to rate the experience more positively than if the person helping you was rude, neglectful, or did not explain the delay.

The Army's Installation Management Command cares about delivering quality customer service.

That's why U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart community members will have the chance to rate garrison services such as housing, transportation,

religious support and recreation in an online survey.

The Customer Service Assessment will be available at www.mymilitaryvoice.org from Aug. 30 through Sept. 26.

All ID cardholders are eligible to take the survey. Neither passwords nor Common Access Cards are needed to access the site, and the survey is completely anonymous.

"It is just one method for the garrison to get the voice of the customer," said Ed McCargo, the USAG Stuttgart Plans, Analysis and Integration Office chief.

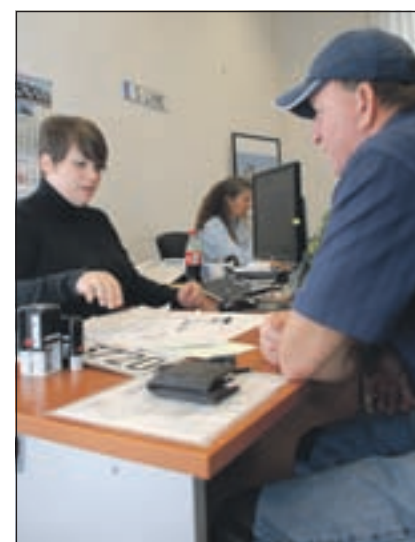
The survey, which takes about 15 minutes to complete, will help shape the way services are funded, and what

improvements and changes will be made.

PAIO officials say the best way garrison leadership can get an accurate picture of customer satisfaction and expectations is from maximum participation.

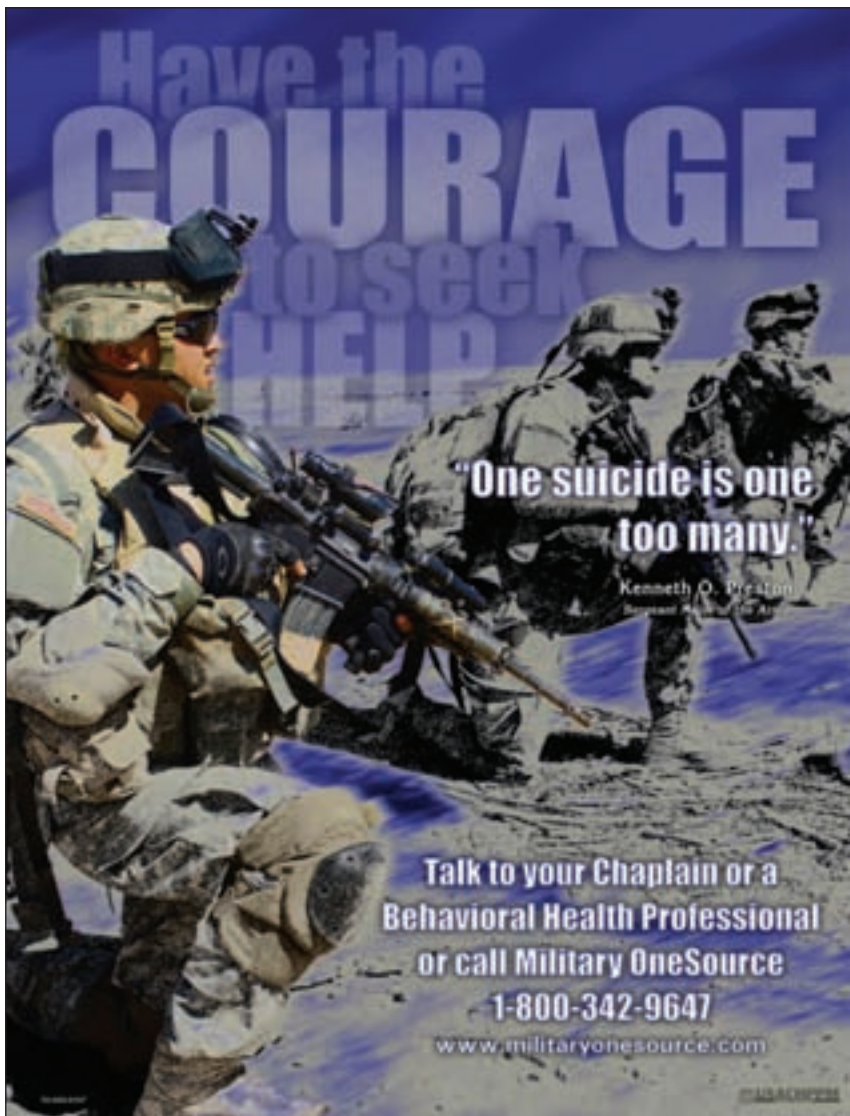
"For this year's survey, we will be making a big push to get more feedback from all constituent groups. Their input will enable the garrison leadership to determine where improvements can be made," McCargo said.

For more information on the Customer Service Assessment, contact Ed McCargo at 431-2118/07031-15-2118, or at edward.mccargo@eur.army.mil.



Susan Huseman

Customer service in action: Lynn Van Zandt, USAG Stuttgart Vehicle Registration supervisor, helps Steven Roberts register a new car at Vehicle Registration Aug. 18.



New TRICARE Overseas contract more patient-centered

TRICARE Management Activity

International SOS Assistance, the new TRICARE Overseas Program contractor, will bring comprehensive, patient-centered and customer-focused service to nearly half a million TRICARE beneficiaries overseas starting Sept. 1.

Under the new contract, non-active duty beneficiaries living overseas will still enjoy the same TRICARE Standard benefit — no enrollment fees and the freedom to choose a host nation provider without a referral — as well as new customer service features. Starting Sept. 1, Standard beneficiaries can contact a TOP regional call center to get assistance with finding a provider in their area.

Call center representatives will also provide program and benefit information 24/7, and the TOP contractor will provide some claims assistance through TRICARE service centers, call centers and overseas claims processors.

As the new contract begins, Standard beneficiaries overseas should keep track of important information to make sure their health care needs are met and claims processes are trouble-free.

- Obtain a payment receipt and file

for reimbursement as soon as possible. TRICARE claims must be filed within a year of the date of service.

- Beneficiaries should be aware that they are responsible for annual deductibles and cost-shares.

- Beneficiaries are also responsible for filling out and filing claims. Military treatment facilities and contract representatives cannot fill out, accept or process claims forms from beneficiaries or providers.

Some overseas MTFs currently allow beneficiaries who are normally TRICARE Standard to enroll to the facility on a space-available basis and receive primary care under TRICARE Plus. The new contract does not change TRICARE Plus, but its availability, as well as space-available care in MTFs, is determined by the commander, based on resources. Even when enrolled to an MTF under Plus, when getting care outside of the MTF, beneficiaries are still responsible for paying deductibles and cost shares, and filing claims.

For more information about the new TOP contract and to download a new overseas handbook, including new contact information, beneficiaries can go to www.tricare.mil/topcontract.

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'Sailing, Sailing:' VBS takes children on Bible voyage

By **Brittany Carlson**
USAG Stuttgart Public
Affairs Office

School wasn't in session, but 340 children flooded the halls of two Stuttgart military community schools this summer to learn — about the Bible.

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Vacation Bible School, sponsored by the USAG Stuttgart Religious Support Office, was held July 26-30 at Patch Elementary School and Aug. 2-6 at Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle School.

VBS is an annual volunteer-run day camp for children in kindergarten through fifth grade (along with some preschool students), focused on Bible lessons. This summer's theme, "High Seas Expedition" by Group Publishing, focused on the life of the apostle Paul.

"We did a lot related to the sea, water, freedom, comfort and new adventures," said Jim Sciegel, USAG Stuttgart religious education director. "It's an opportunity for kids — in a localized, intense five days — to explore Scripture and have fun celebrating the word of God."

During VBS, children rotated between stations, including a DVD theater, snack, game and craft, all focused on a daily Bible point, such as "God's word is true" and "God's word is surprising."

Even the preschool children had their own craft that focused on a Bible verse.

"We are trying to incorporate the biblical texts into art," said Bibiana Adams, pre-school art teacher for RBEMS VBS. "This helps the children to remember the story and all the things they have learned."

The little "crew members" also had the opportunity to donate money to an orphanage in China through Portion for Orphans, an organization co-founded by USAG Stuttgart community member Sally Lockett. Children donated more than \$5,902 between PES and RBEMS.

At the start and end of each day, the children gathered to sing and dance to VBS theme songs at the main stage, set up like a ship deck.

Meg Gilster, entertainment crew leader at the Patch VBS, led the opening and closing ceremonies.

"The energy is incredible," Gilster said. "It's such an awesome



Brittany Carlson

Hayden Mott, 6, smiles as he makes a craft during Vacation Bible School at Patch Elementary School July 29.



Carola Meusel

[Above] Carden Shelly, 12 (far right), attempts to rescue Kayla Hall from the "sharks" under a tarp during a game at the RBEMS VBS.

Carola Meusel



experience ... teaching about God's word."

For Brock Mott, 10, the experience made the sailing theme — and the Bible — come alive.

"I've never gotten to go on a cruise ship, and I actually feel like I'm really there," he said.

Mott also enjoyed the spiritual aspect of VBS. "I don't get to learn about the Bible as much because I don't go to church," he said. "It's a fun and entertaining way to learn about Jesus."

VBS also presents an opportunity for newcomers to the community to



Carola Meusel

[Above] Tariq Gibbs, 4, enjoys his gelatin snack during the RBEMS VBS for preschool children, held in conjunction with regular VBS Aug. 2-6.

[Left] Preschool children at the RBEMS VBS complete a craft with directions from Bibiana Adams, art teacher.

More photos at www.flickr.com/photos/usagstuttgart/



Brittany Carlson

Sydney Vores, 7, places a cloth representing sin on a wooden cross during a Bible lesson at the PES VBS.

network, especially those who recently arrived in Stuttgart during the summer PCS season.

"It's an opportunity, especially for [children], to make connections with classmates they'll meet up with in September," Sciegel said.

It's also a chance for the volunteers, both adults and teens, to get involved in the community.

"It is very rewarding to help guide and educate the younger children and give back a little," said Howard Murray, crew leader at RBEMS VBS.

This year, 124 adults and teens vol-

unteered at PES, 75 at RBEMS.

"The success [of VBS] is really in having volunteers," Sciegel said. "Without the strength of volunteers, this program would not happen."

And without the program, there would be at least one very disappointed child. "Everyone should come to this," said 10-year-old Mott. "If they don't, I feel sorry."

Editor's Note: Some information for this article was provided by Carola Meusel, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office.

AAFES/DECA council meeting set

The next Army and Air Force Exchange Service/Defense Commissary Agency Quarterly Council Meeting will be Sept. 1 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Patch Community Club on Patch Barracks.

Community members are invited to provide input and suggestions to AAFES and DeCA managers.

Clinic closed Aug. 27, Sept. 3-6

The Stuttgart Army Health Clinic will close Aug. 27 for an organizational day and Sept. 3-6 in observance of the Labor Day training holiday and federal holiday.

Contact the military police in case of an emergency at civ. 0711-680-116. For immediate health care needs, contact the Nurse Advice Line at 00800-4759-2330.

Ramstein Bazaar in September

The 45th Annual Ramstein Welfare Bazaar will be held Sept. 16-19. The bazaar, with over 130 vendors from across Europe, is open to all U.S. and NATO Forces ID cardholders.

For more information, visit www.ramstein-bazaar.org.

FMWR is hiring

The Nonappropriated Fund Human Resources Office at the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center is accepting applications for NAF positions. For vacancy announcements and the NAF Job Application Kit, visit <http://cpol-rehp.belvoir.army.mil/eur/cpac/stuttgart/index.htm>.

For more information, stop by NAF HRO, Building 2948, Panzer Kaserne, or call 431-3126/civ. 07031-15-3126.

Register for secure load training

The U.S. Army Europe Safety Office will conduct a briefing on securing loads for vehicle transportation Sept. 28 in English from 9-11:30 a.m., and in German from 1-3:30 p.m. The briefing is for units and organizations that transport material, equipment or goods. It covers transport safety and how to secure loads. Both sessions will be held in Building 3214 at the Stuttgart Army Airfield.

For more information, call 431-3132/431-3133 or e-mail usagstuttgartssafety@eur.army.mil.

D.L. Hughley visits USAG Stuttgart



D.L. Hughley, stand-up comedian and star of the ABC sitcom, "The Hughleys," performs in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Aug. 7 in a show sponsored by USAG Stuttgart Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Corey Knef

Case lot sale to run from Sept. 24-25

The Patch Commissary will conduct a case lot sale Sept. 24-25 in the Patch Commissary warehouse.

For more information, call 430-8401/civ. 0711-680-8401.

Volunteers needed for community relay

Volunteers are needed to organize the Stuttgart Cancer Awareness Relay, set for Oct. 1.

To participate, send an e-mail to yasmin.a.rosa@us.army.mil or eshe.falcon@us.army.mil.

Retiree council seeks new president

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Retiree Council is looking for presidential candidates for a two-year term.

For more information, call the Retirement Services Officer at 431-3442/civ. 07031-15-3442, or e-mail paul.griffen@eur.army.mil.

TRICARE news

• Some Europe Regional Medical Command beneficiaries may see new pharmacy charges due to changes in Military Health System pharmaceutical pricing, but they may not necessarily be higher. The price changes became effective Aug. 9. The new prices affect non-TRICARE eligible pay patients who utilize military treatment

facilities on a space-available, reimbursable basis. For more information, visit www.eubo.healthcare.hqusareur.army.mil.

Consulate hosts American night

The U.S. Consulate General in Frankfurt will host an "American Citizen Information Night" for U.S. citizens Sept. 2 from 5-7 p.m. The event will feature an information fair and brief

presentations. Bring passports or other identification.

For more information and directions, go to http://germany.usembassy.gov/acs/info_night.

Religious Education Conference set

Religious education volunteers are invited to "Walking Humbly With Our God," a training conference sponsored by the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Religious Support Office.

The conference is set for Sept. 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Panzer Chapel on Panzer Kaserne. The keynote speaker will be author and consultant Kathy Hendricks.

Registration is due by Sept. 17. For more information, call 431-3078/civ. 07031-15-3078, or e-mail james.sciegel@eur.army.mil.

EUCOM All Hands

U.S. European Commander Admiral James Stavridis will host an All Hands Call Sept. 10 at 3 p.m. at the Patch Fitness Center.

All EUCOM military members are requested to attend.

Free yoga classes in September

Learn how yoga can help relieve stress, courtesy of U.S. Garrison Stuttgart's Army Substance Abuse Program.

These free one-hour classes, offered as part of the garrison's Suicide Prevention Month activities, are open to all community members. Classes

start at 6:30 a.m.

- Sept. 10, Panzer Gym
- Sept. 17, Kelley Gym
- Sept. 24, Patch Gym

For more information, call 431-2530/civ. 07031-15-2530.

Official mail class offered Sept. 3

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart will conduct an Official Mail Procedure class on Sept. 3 from 9 a.m. to noon in Room 215, Building 3317, Kelley Barracks. The class will cover official mail regulations and handling procedures.

To sign up, or for more information, call Charles Yeboah or Leon Richardson at 421-2520/civ. 0711-729-2520.

Engineer Ball

Engineers across Europe are invited to the European Castle Ball scheduled for Sept. 24 at Würzburg Castle.

For more information, call 379-5049/civ. 0620-280-5049.

Pre- and post-natal yoga available

Ten-week pre- and post-natal yoga classes will start Sept. 10 in the Patch Fitness Center multi-purpose room. Classes will meet each Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for pre-natal, and from 9:30-10:30 a.m. for post-natal yoga. Mandatory registration is Sept. 2 and 7.

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

NOTE: Send your community-wide announcements to stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil.

Stay safe when school starts Aug. 30

- Drivers, watch out for children walking to and from the school building.
- Dress children in bright colors or reflective clothing to make them more visible to motorists.
- Drive or walk children to school and pick them up on the first day. This will establish a safe route of travel.
- Children should never cross the street in front of or behind the bus. Off-post traffic does not stop for loading and unloading of school buses.



1st Lt. Kami Irlmeier (left), home from a deployment to Afghanistan with the 554th MP Company, learns to use a water scooter from Gio Rosa, Outdoor Recreation employee July 20 as part of Warrior Adventure Quest program offered through ODR.



Brittany Carlson

Head over heels: Spc. Josh Wills, a 554th MP Company Soldier, practices falling backward into the water off the dock during the WAQ scuba activity at the Kronau Dive Center near Heidelberg July 20.



Brittany Carlson



Brittany Carlson



[Above] 554th MP Company Scheidt (left) and Spc. Mario ... Kronau Diving Center lake J...

[Left] 554th MP Spc. Nicholas ... to jump in the lake for some s ... behind him, Outdoor Recreat ... Mendoza teaches other MPs ... masks tight to their faces wh...



Brittany Carlson

[Above] Soldiers in the 554th MP Company use the buddy system to put on their scuba gear before diving with instructor Peter Mayer at the Knonau Dive Center July 20 as part of the WAQ program for redeployed Soldiers.



James Pritchard

[Right] Spc. Jerry Einstrom, a 554th MP Company Soldier, gets a running start on a hill at Robinson Barracks while fellow Soldiers look on during the WAQ paragliding day July 21.



Brittany Carlson

Splish splash: 554th MP Company Soldiers Sgt. Larissa Condarcore (top) and Spc. Alex Quijano complete a swim test during the WAQ scuba diving day July 20 at the Kronau Dive Center.



554th MP Company Soldiers raft in the Eiskanau as part of the USAG Stuttgart WAQ program offered through Outdoor Recreation. The Eiskanau is a man-made canal constructed for canoeing and kayaking, and was used for the 1972 Olympic sports. The MPs braved the 750-meter run all the...

For more photos, visit www.flickr.com/photos/usagstuttgart/.



[Left] Pfc. Jason Lowman, 554th MP, gets his paraglide sail in the air during the WAQ paragliding day July 21.



James Pritchard

Soldiers Sgt. Jeffrey Salgado snorkel in the July 20.

s Downing prepares snorkeling, while tion Director Mike how to hold their tile jumping in.



Mark Graf

l in Augsburg July 30 ered through Outdoor ructured for whitewater Olympics for wet water way to the bottom.

[Right] ROTC Cadet Dave Cook snorkels during the Warrior Adventure Quest scuba day with the 554th MP Company July 20, during his Cadet Troop Lead Training.

Brittany Carlson



Warrior Adventure Quest offers thrills to Soldiers who are home from a deployment and ...

LOOKIN' FOR ADVENTURE

By Brittany Carlson
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

It wasn't a typical day at the office. Instead of working at their desks, 23 Soldiers in the 554th Military Police Company went scuba diving July 20.

The trip, hosted by U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Outdoor Recreation, was part of the new Army program for redeploying Soldiers, called Warrior Adventure Quest.

WAQ was created two years ago to help Soldiers adjust to normal life after being in a combat zone with high-thrill activities, designed to replace the rush of being downrange. It is funded by FMWR Command, and put into action by Installation Management Command and regional FMWR recreation managers.

After several pilot programs, it's being implemented at all U.S. installations with deploying troops. In USAG Stuttgart, it's the first time the program has been used by an entire company; the 554th MP Company returned from a 12-month deployment to Afghanistan May 31.

Army officials hope the WAQ program will reduce high-risk and destructive behaviors associated with redeploying Soldiers that can lead to accidental death.

"They need action," said Mike Mendoza, USAG Stuttgart ODR director. "These guys come back from a deployment and their adrenaline's up, and within a few days they're going out drinking and driving."

"The idea behind this is to show them that there are other adrenaline rushes that are safe," he added.

To prove his point, ODR took close to 90 554th MP Co. Soldiers rock climbing, paragliding, wakeboarding, scuba diving and rafting between July 20-30.

For Mendoza, what made it all worthwhile was the fact that so many Soldiers were interested in taking other trips with ODR.

"These guys were already making inquiries about other ODR activities, such as paintballing. That's already a positive sign," he said.

It was also rewarding "just hearing the laughter ... hearing them have a good time," he added.

Mendoza and other WAQ program managers offer Soldiers a menu of activities that involve not only action, but incorporate interactive and group skills so that Soldiers can reconnect with their battle buddies.

After coming back from downrange, "people ETS [and] PCS; esprit de corps is in flux," Mendoza said.

At the Discover Scuba class, held through Seahorse Tauschschule GmbH at the Kronau Dive Center near Heidelberg, the MPs were taught to rely on each other for safety while diving in the center's lake. They used the "buddy system" and hand signals to tell each other when to dive, and when they needed to resurface.

"I thought it was a great experience for Soldiers," said 1st Lt. Kami Irlmeier, 3rd platoon leader for the 554th MP Co. "A lot of them are really missing the camaraderie we had downrange. This is giving them the chance to get out as a company and hang out as a group."

When they weren't diving, the Soldiers took a guided snorkeling tour around the lake with ODR employees Mark Graf and Gio Rosa, used underwater scooters and swam around the dock.

"This is exactly what I need right now," said Spc. Nick Downing, as he stretched out in a chair during lunch. "I'm just relaxed ..."

Spc. Casey Call enjoyed diving so much that he immediately started planning return trips. "I'm planning on coming back with my

family," he said. "We want to get certified."

In order to keep track of Soldier feedback like this, ODR passes out a pre- and post-experience survey to each Soldier during every WAQ activity; the surveys are later sent to the Department of the Army to track feedback. Soldiers answer questions on whether or not the activity helped them feel less stressed, irritable, distant or on guard. The survey also asked them if the activity promoted unit cohesiveness and personal leadership.

For Capt. Nathan James, 554th MP Co. executive officer at the time, the questions were no-brainers.

"If it gets [Soldiers] involved, it's a good thing," he said. "It's a healthy outlet for stress ... from coming back from downrange."

Teaching Soldiers to dive is nothing new to the Kronau Dive Center. Last year, 1,100 Soldiers from USAG Baumholder went through the WAQ program there.

"I just want to give the troops something back," said Kronau Dive Center Manager C.J. Jensen, an American retiree. "This is the best way to show [my] appreciation."

When Soldiers keep returning to dive, they develop relationships with the instructors. "Last year, Soldiers really opened up," Jensen said. "They wanted somebody, basically, to talk to."

"Once they encountered instructors and gave them their trust, this [became], for them, like a big relief," he added.

Perhaps that's why more than 10 percent of the Baumholder Soldiers in WAQ came back to the dive center to get their scuba certification — something both Jensen and Mendoza hope will occur with Stuttgart Soldiers this year.

"The success of [WAQ] is how many of these guys come back for more," Mendoza said.

Judging from the Soldier feedback, the program is already achieving its goal.

SOCEUR enables Poland Special Ops intelligence effort

Story & photo by

Master Sgt. Donald Sparks

Special Operations Command Europe
Public Affairs Office

Human intelligence is critical and key to Special Operations Forces missions. Knowing how to collect, analyze and debrief information is particularly important for intelligence Soldiers when providing integral data to commanders and operators on the ground.

In an effort to increase the intelligence gathering capability of the Poland Special Operations Forces Command, experts from U.S. Special Operations Command Europe conducted a two-week symposium held Aug. 3-12 at Panzer Kaserne. The engagement was at the core of SOCEUR's mission: developing interoperability with allied and partner special operations forces in support of the command's Partner Development Program.

This was the third such PDP engagement that the SOCEUR J2 Intelligence Directorate has held with its Polish counterparts this past year; however, it was the first one held in Germany. Fifteen Polish personnel took part in the seminar, five of whom are deploying to support operations as part of the International Security Assistance Force.

"POLSOFCOM specifically requested this intelligence engagement to prepare their soldiers for future missions in support of ISAF," said Maj. Charles Vores, a SOCEUR intelligence operations officer. "This engagement allows us to enhance their capacity and provide lessons learned from some of our troops recently coming right out of Afghanistan."

He also mentioned that the most important aspect of the engagement was for the Poles to gain the ability to identify and fill information gaps from intelligence sources on the ground, in order to shape, plan and rehearse future operations on their own.

"As a result, it enhances mission



A U.S. military intelligence NCO assigned to 1-10th SFG (Airborne), left, demonstrates how to use the Secure Electronic Enrollment Kit to an intel officer assigned to the Poland Special Operations Command Aug. 11 on Panzer Kaserne.

success by preventing wasted time on the objective," Vores said.

Vores mentioned the two-week engagement was tailored for both a classroom and rural environments, with lessons focusing on intelligence analysis, counterinsurgency, patrol briefings and debriefings, and key leader engagements.

Additionally, the Polish soldiers were able to get hands-on familiarization with two systems: Battlefield Information Collection and Exploitation System and the Secure Electronic Enrollment Kit. The SEEK system offers Soldiers the ability to conduct biometric operations such as fingerprint analysis, facial recognition and iris scans on individuals.

According to a POLSOFCOM

officer participating in the seminar, the engagement was necessary to take the Poles out of their comfort zones in several ways.

"Conducting intelligence gathering is one of our biggest capability gaps," the Polish officer said. "We obviously need language support to do this, but this engagement has allowed us to better organize our efforts so we can make the best decisions for the commander."

The capstone event of the symposium was a practical exercise in which the soldiers were placed in a simulated combat environment where role players approached them with threat intelligence information about enemy/insurgent activity in their area of operations.

The soldiers were evaluated on tasks

such as setting up source meetings, asking quality questions, gathering 'key nuggets' during the intelligence collection and writing actionable data reports.

"We were able to get them comfortable in an uncomfortable situation, particularly by having them speak English throughout the event," Vores said. "During feedback, we would mention, 'you should have asked this follow-up question' or 'how come you didn't ask this question' to help them see second and third order effects of collecting data."

Agreeing with Vores' observation, the POLSOFCOM officer added, "We can't conduct tactical operations with the wrong intelligence, so I now feel we can build a better target intelligence packet as a result of this symposium."

See more photos on www.flickr.com/photos/usagstuttgart

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Celebrate Swabian way of life at Stuttgart's Wine Village

By Carola Meusel

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

This year's annual Stuttgarter Weindorf (Wine Village) will run from Aug. 25 through Sept. 5 in downtown Stuttgart. The fest opens daily at 11 a.m. and runs until 11 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday, and until midnight Thursday through Saturday.

The Weindorf focuses on celebrating Stuttgart's 1,000-year-old wine tradition. Visitors can sample over 300 wines from the middle Neckar region during the 12 days of the fest and enjoy Swabian meals in close to 120 lavishly decorated wine booths.

Music and entertainment range from traditional fest music to classical jazz and piano performances.

The first Weindorf in Stuttgart was organized by the Pro Stuttgart-Verkehrsverein in 1976.

"The most special thing about our wine village here is that it has the atmosphere of a small village. Every booth owner decorates [a] booth individually, and therefore, creates a warm and cozy atmosphere," said Fritz Mutter, Pro Stuttgart-Verkehrsverein chairman.

On average, the Weindorf brings in more than one million visitors per year, Mutter added.

Swabians are known for celebrating fests to honor traditions and cultural heritage. Almost everything is tied to history, and so is the wine in Stuttgart.

The middle Neckar region has always been known for cultivating fine wines, ranging from the traditional Trollinger red wine to white Riesling and rose Schiller wines. According to legend, there was more wine than water available during the 14th century in Stuttgart, re-



Zum wohl!
Regional wines Spaetburgunder Weissherbst and Riesling are poured at a booth during the Stuttgarter Weindorf, held each year in downtown Stuttgart. This year's wine village will be Aug. 25 to Sept. 5. The fest opens daily at 11 a.m., and runs until 11 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday, and until midnight Thursday through Saturday.

www.prostuttgart.de

sulting in Swabia adopting wine as the national drink. The Weindorf flows from the Schillerplatz, in Stuttgart's historical center, to the town hall.

In the center of the square, the statue of the famous Swabian poet, Friedrich Schiller, oversees the wine fest. The light-bodied Schiller rose wine is named after him. The Schillerplatz is framed by several historical buildings, including Stuttgart's old castle, the old chancellery, the prince's building, and the Stiftskirche (Collegiate Church). The cathedral is Stuttgart's oldest Protestant church and the only monument from the Staufen era, making it the city's most significant landmark.

Other landmarks in the square are the Fruchtkasten

(fruit box), where the annual tribute for grain was paid, and an original winepress from 1578.

After buying their first glass of wine, visitors can use it to sample wine throughout the fest or keep it as a souvenir; some have their name engraved on the glass.

Many people refer to Stuttgart's Weindorf as the most beautiful wine fest in Germany. Mutter explains why: "The wine village is an exquisite place for people to get together. You don't have to invite your friends; you will meet them automatically at the fest. Here, people can have good conversations while enjoying a cozy and friendly event. It's all about the Swabian way of life."

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TAILGATE PARTY**

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Giveaways, Music & Fun!

Watch the game on the big screen at 7 p.m.

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DSR 431 2774, DV 07031 13 2774

Approved gear, street smarts a must for bicyclists

By Staff Sgt. Ronald White
USAG Stuttgart Directorate of
Emergency Services

With only a few months left before winter sets in, many community members will continue to ride their bicycles, scooters and skateboards through summer and fall.

In addition, many children will be riding their own sets of wheels to and from school, starting Aug. 30.

It's important for everyone who rides wheeled objects to be aware of the risk involved, and make safety a priority.

In 2008, 716 cyclists were killed and an additional 52,000 were injured in traffic crashes in the U.S., according to the National Highway Traffic Administration.

This is why it is extremely important to pay attention while riding a bicycle, skateboard or scooter along roadways, both on and off post.

Fasten that helmet

On post, it is a requirement for a cyclist to wear an approved helmet

fastened under the chin, according to Army Europe Regulation 190-1.

These helmets save lives and are just as important as wearing a seat belt while in a moving vehicle.

The regulation also requires the bike to have working brakes, two reflectors mounted 180 degrees apart on the spokes and additional reflectors on the bicycle pedals.

When riding a bike when it is dark, it is a requirement to have a headlight that emits a white light and a taillight that emits a red light. In addition, cyclists should wear light-colored clothing or reflective accessories.

Use paths, sidewalks, or parts of the road marked for bicyclist use when available, and always stay as far to the right of the road as possible.

Keep both hands on the bicycle at all times, stay with the flow of traffic, and obey all traffic laws.

All bicycle passengers should be in an approved second seat.

Skateboards, skates, scooters

While riding skateboards or kick-



Cyclists, skateboarders and kick-scooter riders should always wear an approved helmet that fastens under the chin, according to AER 190-1.

photos.com

scooters, or while on skates, riders must wear kneepads, elbow pads and wrist guards, in addition to an approved helmet fastened under the chin and light-colored clothing or reflective accessories.

Use the right side sidewalks or other designated safe riding areas; never ride in or out of traffic, and always yield to pedestrians. Passengers are not allowed on skateboards and scooters.

No cell phones

Never use your cell phone while operating any wheeled objects and keep

all objects you are carrying with you in a backpack.

Be aware of your surroundings, especially when roadways and traffic are involved.

Enjoy the remainder of summer and remember to remind your neighbors to wear proper protective equipment and follow the above rules; it's the law.

For more information on bicycle and skateboard installation rules, see AER 190-1 at <https://aepubs.army.mil/pdfpubs/AER190-1.htm#P05-07>.

For more news, visit www.stuttgart.army.mil

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From 12:00 p.m. taste the delicious Bavarian specialties
Monday Sept. 13th – Sat. 18th: Bavarian days with party tent atmosphere, entertainment and Bavarian treats

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- If you choose to use your living quarters allowance (LQA) to buy, we guide you through the financing process.
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Joey McPherson, 14, is airborne during a 360-degree flip at the CYS Services skateboard competition, held Aug. 21 at the Böblingen skatepark. McPherson was one of 16 competitors.



Rosmir Villaluz (from left), 15, Rich Pastore, 15, and Sean Brandt, 14, pay attention as the rules are announced.



Marquis Jackson, 10, nails an "olly" while competing in the CYS Services skateboard competition, held Aug. 21.

Gnarly, dude!

Story & photos by Susan Huseman
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Instead of sleeping in on one of the last Saturdays of the summer, 16 boys got up early to do what they love to do: ride skateboards.

They turned out for the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Child, Youth and School Services' German-American skateboard competition, held Aug. 21 in Böblingen.

"We have such a big skating community," said Caitlin Smith, a fitness specialist with CYS Services. "This lets them show their stuff."

That they did. Between Ollie Norths, Pop Shuvits and Fakie Big Spins, the skaters attempted tricks that defied gravity and wowed their parents.

The skaters, divided into three age groups (10-12, 13-15 and 16-18), competed in three contests: a 60-second run, a game of S.K.A.T.E. and best trick.

Each competitor got three goes at the 60-second run, showcasing their skills on the skate park's quarter pipe, launch ramps, flat banks and grind rails.

S.K.A.T.E. is similar to basketball's game of H.O.R.S.E., only if the skaters did not land the designated trick, they got a letter of the word "skate." Spell the word, get eliminated. The skater left standing wins.

The best trick contest gave the skaters three-

minutes to wow the judges on designated obstacles.

Rich Pastore, 15, who has skated for three years, acted as a judge for the younger and older age groups. "The competition gives everyone a chance to compete. We don't get to do that very often," he said.

If it wasn't for the garrison's cooperative relationship with the city of Böblingen, the competition may not have happened at all.

With the skateboard park on Patch Barracks not yet relocated to the Böblingen Housing Area, CYS Services had three choices: cancel, postpone or find another skate park.

"It took one phone call to the Director of Public Order of Böblingen, and the city supported us," said Liz Moore, USAG Stuttgart government relations advisor.

Winners

60-second run — 10-12: 1. Kevin Collins; 2. Luke Bussel, 10. 13-15: 1. Rich Pastore; 2. Caine Collins. 16-18: 1. Tom-Luca Schröder; 17; 2. Thomas Ardnt, 17.

S.K.A.T.E. — 10-12: 1. Bussel; 2. Collins. 13-15: 1. Rich Pastore; 2. Sean Brandt, 14. 16-18: 1. Schröder; 2. Ardnt.

Best trick — 10-12: Zack Spradlin, 10; 13-15: Collins; 16-18: Schröder.

SPORTS SHORTS

Try out for youth soccer

U.S. Youth Soccer Stuttgart Select will hold tryouts Aug. 28 and 29 at 8:30 a.m. at the Local Training Area sports fields across from Panzer Kaserne. There is a \$5 try-out fee. Cleats and shin guards are required.

For more information, visit www.stuttgartselect.com.

Fall bowling leagues start in September

The Galaxy Bowling Center fall bowling leagues start in September. Leagues include a Thursday Morning Ladies League, starting Sept. 9 at 10 a.m., the Tuesday Night Mixed League, starting Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. and the Friday Night Mixed League, starting Sept. 10 at 7 p.m.

For more information, call the Galaxy Bowling Center at 431-2719/civ. 07031-15-2719, or contact Pat Davis at civ.07031-20-48750 or via e-mail at np_davis@hotmail.com.

Golf with Red Cross on Labor Day in Kornwestheim

The American Red Cross 24th Annual Golf Classic is set for Labor Day, Sept. 6, at the Stuttgart Golf Course in Kornwestheim. Registration begins at 7 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9 a.m.

To register, call 431-2812/civ. 07031-15-2812 or e-mail RedCross.Stuttgart@eur.army.mil.

8th Annual AFCEA golf tourney set for Sept. 17

The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association Stuttgart Chapter will hold its 8th Annual Golf Classic Sept. 17 at the Stuttgart Golf Course in Kornwestheim.

For more information, call 434-5244/civ. 0711-68639-5244.

Join Fit for Life

Join the Fit for Life program and stay on track with your fitness goals. This exercise tracking program is designed to increase fitness levels and keep you motivated about staying in shape. Participants will receive incentive awards when they reach their mileage goals. Participants can register any time during the program, which ends Dec. 31. For more information, call 430-7136/civ. 0711-680-7136.

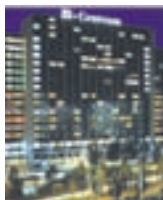
Swim team seeks members

The Stuttgart Piranhas Swim Team is looking for new swimmers between the ages of 6 and 19 for the upcoming season. Swimmers must be able to swim comfortably in a 25-meter pool.

For more information, visit www.stuttgartpiranhas.org or e-mail registrar@stuttgartpiranhas.org.

Join Sitzmarkers Ski and Board Club — ski Austria, Italy

The Sitzmarkers Ski and Board Club, aimed at students in grades seven through 12, will hold an information and membership meeting Sept. 20 at 5:30 p.m. in the Religious Education Center on Patch Barracks.

<p>Rent-Appart Plieninger Str. 100 70567 Stuttgart Ph: 0711/7289322 Fax: 0711/7227078</p> 	<p>Ideally situated, Kelly walk 10 min. Patch 15 min. by car, Panzer 20 min., 20 min. away from down town Stuttgart, 10 min. to the airport, 5 min. to the Autobahn</p>	<p>Short or long-term rental. One or two room furnished apartments. Kitchen fully equipped, bathroom, Inter- net. Restaurant and pool in the building. Prices starting € 42,- incl. cleaning service. No deposit + no finder's fee Photo: www.stuttgartwohnen.de E-mail: rentappart@aol.com</p>
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For schedules, prices, conditions, and other information, visit www.sportscar-events.de. Ladies and Gentlemen ... Start your Engines!



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