

Hope in the ashes: Garrison community continues support for families affected by warehouse fire

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

It has been five weeks since a warehouse fire destroyed the household goods of more than 120 families in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Oct. 30, and while the shock has worn off, the support continues.

Garrison leaders and organizations demonstrated their commitment to providing continuous service for affected families during a second town hall meeting held in response to the fire Nov. 16 in the Panzer Chapel.

"There are a lot of things — ACS, Red Cross, DOL, temporary furniture — [the garrison] has made available, and I want to make sure that you have a good understanding of what's out there," said USAG Stuttgart Commander Col. Carl D. Bird, during the meeting.

Community leaders also discussed the way ahead for the families, pointing out the flowers of hope blooming amidst the ashes of tragedy.

Trained salvage inspectors began sifting through the wreckage Nov. 12 in hopes of retrieving items that can be cleaned and decontaminated, according to William Crane, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobility and Security director. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

"These folks in masks [who] are picking through this — they'll do the best they can for you," Crane said.

In the meantime, he advised families to take advantage of the many services that can help them put their homes back together — and overwhelming support from volunteers — as many



Trey Kinney, 18, a Patch Thrift Shop volunteer, whose family was affected by the household goods warehouse fire Oct. 30, sorts through some of the tableware donated to the shop specifically for affected families.

See Hope on page 4



Photos by Joseph Mancy

Mekyle Fernandes, a Patch High School junior, gives it his all during the FMWR 4x4 Turkey Relay Nov. 20.

Instead of a baton, runners carried 10-pound turkeys.

Teammates complete a smooth hand-off during the 4x4 Turkey Relay held Nov. 20 on Husky Field.

Going 'cold turkey'

Twenty-four Stuttgart military community members woke up early on Nov. 20 to compete in a 4x4 relay race on Husky Field — while carrying 10-pound frozen Butterballs. The 4x4 Turkey Relay was sponsored by USAG Stuttgart Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

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Stuttgart Cowboys make it to top

In its first year, the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Child Youth and School Services junior tackle football team placed first in IMCOM-E.



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FMWR photo contest winners announced

Stuttgart photographers reveal new perspectives on nature, people, places and culture in the annual FMWR photo contest: check out the winners inside.



Building resiliency helps restore balance within Army Family

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

Given the Army's 235-year history, resiliency is a relatively new word in our vocabulary. We hear it often nowadays, from the highest levels of leadership on down, as we talk about how we are addressing the effects of nine years of conflict.



Lt. Gen. Lynch

There may be a danger that someone will hear the word once too often and tune it out. However, we need to keep talking about it until every member of the Army community hears it and gets the message that we want them not only to survive, but to thrive.

A dictionary definition of resiliency is the ability to recover from misfortune or adjust easily to change. When we in the Army talk about resiliency, though, we are also talking about the ability to realize personal growth and development in the face of challenging situations. Re-

Resiliency ... is about ... living your dash — the line on the tombstone between the dates of birth and death — to the fullest.

siency is rooted in physical, mental and spiritual fitness. It is about finding the balance in your life between work, family and self, and living your dash — the line on the tombstone between the dates of birth and death — to the fullest.

During the last nine years of conflict, our Soldiers, civilians and family members have faced challenging situations, and in too many cases, tragedy. Multiple deployments and too little dwell time have strained our relationships. We can see the stress manifest in rising rates of divorce, domestic violence, suicide and other destructive behaviors.

We have to reverse the trends. We owe it to our Soldiers, civilians and family members to help them build the resiliency they need to cope with their challenges.

Army leaders are making resiliency a priority and a part of Army culture, and have taken a number of steps to assess and build resiliency in our Soldiers,

civilians and family members.

One of the initiatives is the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program. The program is designed to enhance the resilience, readiness and potential of Soldiers, civilians and family members by building strength in every area of life: physical, emotional, social, spiritual and family.

CSF is mandatory for Soldiers, but geared toward the whole Army community, with components for family members and civilians, as well. Participants begin with the Global Assessment Tool, which measures strength in each of the five areas. The GAT is located at the CSF website, www.army.mil/csf. The results of the assessment direct an individualized training plan, which includes virtual training, classroom training and support from resilience experts.

Other resources that can help Soldiers, civilians and family members build resiliency are the Army Wellness

Centers. Like the CSF, the Wellness Centers are focused on prevention and helping individuals identify their problem areas and make positive changes for their health and well-being. Wellness Center programs include metabolic and fitness testing, nutrition education, weight management, stress management and tobacco cessation.

The Army's focus on resiliency acknowledges that the Soldiers who make up our all-volunteer Army and their family members need and want balance in their lives.

It is easy to get knocked off-balance by the challenges we face, which is why I encourage you to take the time to build your resiliency and find your balance.

As I said, you have to live your dash. For me, the dash signifies not only serving my country, but even more importantly, being a husband and father, and making time for friends. When you are taking your last breath, you are probably not going to wish you spent more time working, but more time doing the things you enjoy and being with the people you love.

Spend time with those important to you, recharge, and ultimately, live your dash well.

THE CITIZEN

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ON THE STREET

What's the best gift you've ever given?



Lt. Col. James Woods
(U.S. Army)

"The best gift you can give is love."



Lt. Jason Ritchie
(U.S. Navy)

"Funding my family's ability to come here and visit ... it's really special for them."



Sgt. Mark Fleming
(U.S. Marine Corps)

"My time. Me being there, in general."



Spc. C.C. Sanders
(U.S. Army)

"Money for my family, younger cousins and nieces."



Mark Gilliland
(Civilian)

"I paid for some groceries for a young couple who obviously didn't have enough money."



Andrea Garcia
(Retiree spouse)

"I watched my friend's new baby for her, for a whole weekend."



Cmdr. Dan Davidson
(U.S. Navy)

"The diamond earrings I gave to my wife after coming home from a six-month deployment."



Leah Anne Anderson
(Navy spouse)

"I painted a ceramic mug for my boyfriend, now husband, to match his bubbly personality."

Garrison intends to stop bad behavior on shuttle buses

Story & photo by Susan Huseman
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Act up on a public bus in the States and you can get arrested. In U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, you may find yourself facing a command-ordered Early Return of Dependents.

A recent outbreak of disorderly conduct on the shuttle buses has garrison officials intent on cracking down on offenders.

Last month, the garrison received a string of Interactive Customer Evaluation complaints about the conduct of a small group of students who ride the after-school bus from Panzer Kaserne to Patch Barracks, and evening buses from Patch to Robinson Barracks.

The complaints charge that the students use offensive language and are disrespectful, making the ride unpleasant for others on the bus, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Bryant, the USAG Stuttgart command sergeant major.

He said that transportation officials have also found intentional damage to the interiors of the buses on these routes.

"We want to first make parents aware that there is a problem," Bryant said.

"Kids are going to be kids. They'll be loud — that's OK," Bryant said. "But explicit language and racial slurs are offensive to other bus passengers — and they will not be tolerated."

Bryant added that parents are responsible for their children's behavior. "If you know your child is on the bus from Patch to RB, tell your child to curb their behavior," he said.

So far, no one has filed a formal complaint with military police. "We need adults to point out the offending children," Bryant said.

But they don't need to confront the students. "You can politely ask them to curb their behavior," Bryant said, but if the student continues, the MPs should be called at civ. 0711-680-5262.

Once notified, the MPs will meet the bus at the next point of entry, the offending student will be identified, and the adult who made the call will be asked to file a formal complaint. Parents will be contacted and the formal complaint sent to the garrison civilian misconduct action authority.

Should a student become a repeat offender, "an EROD is an option the commander can take," Bryant said.

With four bus routes and as many as seven buses

... explicit language and racial slurs are offensive to other bus passengers — and they will not be tolerated.

Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Bryant
USAG Stuttgart



Passengers board a shuttle bus from Panzer Kaserne to Patch Barracks on Nov. 24. A recent outbreak of disorderly conduct on the buses has USAG Stuttgart officials intent on cracking down on offenders.

on the road at any given time, garrison officials are looking at strategies aimed at keeping the unruly behavior under control.

This includes having garrison officials randomly ride the buses in question to monitor the situation, working with the civilian misconduct action authority, and communicating with middle and high school students through school channels.

USAG Stuttgart school liaison officers are making sure students and parents are educated on the appropriate behavior for the shuttle buses and the consequences of misbehavior.

"The children should be modeling their behavior as if they were on the DoDDS school bus," said Rena Hall, a school liaison officer.

This means no profanity or inappropriate behavior, staying seated and being courteous to other riders, she said.

In addition to ICE complaints about students' behavior, the garrison has received several complaints about students who habitually take the morning shuttle bus from Kelley to Patch Barracks, instead of the Department of Defense Dependents Schools —contracted bus, because the shuttle bus runs 20 minutes later.

"According to Army Europe Regulation 58-1, family members are authorized to ride the shuttle bus on a space-available basis," said Karl-Heinz Mueller, director of the garrison's Directorate of Logistics, which oversees the shuttle bus system.

"However, the shuttle bus is not an alternative source for school transportation," he added. "DODEA spends a great deal of money for school bus operations. This is the mode of transportation students should take."

News & Notes

Optical center now open in Panzer Mall

The Panzer Optical Center, offering the latest in eye wear and lenses, is now open in the Panzer Mall.

The optical center is staffed by U.S.-trained and certified opticians.

Panzer Optometry Care will open Dec. 6, and will provide all U.S. ID cardholders comprehensive eye examinations, contact lens fittings and urgent care for ocular conditions.

This facility is a TRICARE Prime Europe provider. Patients enrolled in TRICARE Europe do not need a referral for an appointment.

TRICARE covers yearly eye examinations for spouses and children of active duty service members.

While the clinic does not accept other forms of insurance, clinic personnel will fill out insurance forms and provide detailed receipts.

Panzer Optometry Care will be open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The phone number is civ. 07031-204-2350.

The Panzer Optical Center is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The phone number is civ. 07031-204-2352.

The fax number for both shops is civ. 07031-204-2351.

Save money with UTAP

Community members who receive utilities through EnBW (Energie Baden-Württemberg AG) can sign up for U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Utility Tax Avoidance Program and save on value added tax and energy taxes.

To take advantage of this benefit, eligible community members must make an appointment online at UTAP-reservation@eur.army.mil.

From now through Dec. 15, the UTAP office (Room 314, Building 2913, Panzer Kaserne) will offer extended hours Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., by appointment.

A temporary satellite office will be available on Kelley Barracks (Building 3300), by appointment only, from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., through Dec. 15.

For more information and a list of needed documents, visit www.stuttgartmwr.com and click on the Tax Relief link, or call 431-3451/civ. 07031-15-3451.

Holiday religious services

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Religious Support Office will sponsor several holiday services. Upcoming services include:

- Dec. 3, 6:30 p.m.: Jewish Hanukkah celebration, Panzer Chapel
- Dec. 5, 11 a.m.: Protestant Christmas music worship and fellowship, Patch Chapel
- Dec. 7, 7 p.m.: Catholic Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Panzer Chapel
- Dec. 8, Catholic Feast: 8 a.m., Panzer Chapel; 11:45 a.m., Kelley Hotel; 7 p.m., Patch Chapel

Dec. 12, 11 a.m.: Protestant children's Christmas pageant and fellowship, Patch Chapel

Dec. 13, 6:30 p.m.: Protestant Women of the Chapel Christmas program, Patch Religious Education Center.

Ask a JAG

Editor's Note: Do you have a legal 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: *Friends of mine had their household goods shipment destroyed in the recent warehouse fire. Although I've moved often due to being in the military, and have come to expect that some of my items may be damaged in shipment, I haven't thought much about the possibility of losing everything. What should I know in order to be prepared in advance?*

A: Service members, as well as Defense Department civilians who make a DoD-sponsored move, receive full replacement value protection for their shipments. With FRV, a person whose items are damaged or destroyed in transit may file a claim with the company responsible for the move (the transportation service provider, or TSP). To do so, that person must notify the TSP of the damage within 75 days of the delivery date, and file a claim within nine months of that date.

If a claimant meets those deadlines, the TSP must pay him or her what it will cost to replace the destroyed items or, if possible, what it will cost to repair those items to their original condition. However, TSPs have a maximum amount for which they can be held liable. That amount is whichever is greater: a) \$5,000 or b) \$4 multiplied by the net weight of the household goods shipment, up to \$50,000 (or, for unaccompanied baggage shipments, the gross weight of the shipment). Therefore, if a person's HHG shipment weighed 500 pounds, and was completely destroyed, the most the TSP is required to pay that person is \$5,000.

However, if the person believes that the items in his or her shipment were worth more than \$5,000, he or she may also file a claim with a private insurer, if private insurance was obtained for the move, and then with the government.

An important point to note when filing with the government is that the government is required to pay claimants based on the depreciated value of their goods at the time they were shipped. Additionally, for certain items such as jewelry, the government has a maximum amount that it is permitted to pay. As with TSPs, the government also has an overall maximum amount it may pay for a particular claim (in most cases, \$40,000).

Although doing so requires time and energy, it is advisable to inventory and photograph everything you intend to ship, prior to your next move. Movers who indicate on your inventory that you are shipping "boxes of DVDs" have not done you much good if, later on, you are forced to recall exactly how many DVDs and their titles. Further, with a comprehensive inventory, you will be better able to determine whether it would be beneficial to obtain private insurance.

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.

Hope

Continued from page 1

have already done.

More than \$21,000 was collected for the affected families during garrison worship services Nov. 6-7 — the largest designated offering ever collected in the community, according to USAG Stuttgart Deputy Community Chaplain Lt. Col. Ken Bellinger. The money was deposited into the Stuttgart Community Spouses Club's emergency relief fund and will be distributed by the garrison Religious Support Office on an as-needed basis.

In the weeks following the fire, Army Community Service contacted a majority of the affected families, many of which took a needs assessment survey, said Gina Starrett, ACS Family Assistance Center coordinator.

In response to the survey, the ACS lending closet purchased additional kitchen sets and appliances. The SCSC also provided \$50 vouchers to the families so they could buy other necessities at the Patch Thrift Shop.

Additionally, the American Red Cross Stuttgart provided grants for winter wear and linens to 60 families and the United Service Organizations provided Thanksgiving meals to 52 families through the Thanks for Thanksgiving program. The USO also transported several families to the Ramstein Base Exchange to shop for furniture Nov. 19.

In order to continue matching services with needs, Starrett requested that those families who have not taken the ACS needs survey, to do so.

"We're here for you," she said. "We will do everything we can to lessen some of the burden during this terrible time for you."

Likewise, community members have been volunteering to help affected families.

Trey Kinney, a family member affected by the fire, visited the Patch Thrift Shop with his family to pick up some needed items, but when he saw the amount of donated goods, he decided to volunteer. "When I saw how much stuff we had, I was like, 'I want to help,'" he said.

Acting as a distribution point, the Patch Thrift Shop filled two rooms by Nov. 16 with clothing, appliances and household items donated for the affected families, and had to stop accepting donations.

During a community flea market Nov. 20, volunteers

also organized a room in the Patch Community Club with hundreds of free items donated for the families.

Other families found comfort in the help they received while going through the claims process.

So far, 33 families have filed claims with their transportation service providers, with help from Stuttgart Law Center personnel, according to Capt. Jason McKenna, claims and administrative law attorney at the SLC. Of those families, nine have been paid in full, he said.

"We've seen folks who have been paid already — just on their inventory forms," McKenna added.

Dale Leifson, a civilian who lost his household goods in the fire, said his appointment at the claims office went a long way toward helping him start the recovery process. "Being able to talk with a JAG [judge advocate] really helped a lot," he said. "They were able to specify exactly what's going to happen."

"With everything else that happened, that was a good experience."

Leifson and his wife also visited the housing office and made arrangements for temporary furniture.

The majority of families have been contacted by the Housing Office regarding loaner furniture, according to Housing Office Chief Iris Jones.

In addition to dealing with logistics, families affected by the fire are also trying to prepare for the holidays. To assist them, the community will host a holiday party for the families, called "Jingle Bell Bash." The party is set for Dec. 5 in the Panzer Firehouse from 1-4 p.m. and will include a visit from Santa — who will deliver new toys to the children — and free family portraits.

With all of these services available, Chaplain Bellinger, who also lost his household goods, advised families to manage their money well and avoid new debt.

"Be intentional," he said. "Don't add to your pain and suffering in the long term for the choices made [today]."

He also told them that, while garrison organizations can help them take care of the paperwork involved in recovery, they need to make sure their internal needs are met as well.

"This is an event that happened on a calendar date, but we keep reliving it and rediscovering it on a daily basis," he said. "It's important to pay attention to the essentials — the basics in life. Make healthy choices. Take care of yourself emotionally, spiritually, physically."



Patch Thrift Shop volunteers Pat Davis (from left), Sherry Worsham and Karen Chadwick sort through stacks of clothing donated to the shop Nov. 17. The thrift shop, acting as a distribution point, filled two rooms with donated clothing and household items for the families affected by the warehouse fire.

'A Christmas Carol' play brings classic to life

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

The Stuttgart Theatre Center's production of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" aims to give audiences an even more vivid rendition of Ebenezer Scrooge's story than they may have seen before.

Under the direction of Richard Roberts, actor Max Heidt portrays Scrooge as more than just a "humbug," but a truly mean character to highlight the miracle of his restoration.

"The way [Richard] stages it, it's a little bit darker," said Heidt, a civilian. "In order to make [the] good 'pop' and be worth chasing after, you have to show the dark."

In an effort to make Scrooge's transformation from an angry miser to a loving friend and uncle even more remarkable, Richards wanted to start the show off on a sinister note, making the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come, along with Marley, more foreboding — and Scrooge more miserable than ever, Heidt said.

"Scrooge is nasty," he added. "He's a lost soul that seems un-savable."

Scrooge's journey from darkness to light is what makes "A Christmas Carol" so timeless, Roberts said. "It's one of the most beautiful stories ever written ... the classic story of redemption."

It's also quite a challenge to portray on stage, especially for Heidt.

"He doesn't just jump from mean to happy. His heart is so cold. He's been that way for 60 years," Heidt said. "He slowly softens. That's a challenge. I want the people to see the reformation that the



Matthew Gilster (left), 11, and Max Heidt rehearse their roles as Tiny Tim and Ebenezer Scrooge for the Stuttgart Theatre Center's production of "A Christmas Carol," which will open Dec. 3 and run through Dec. 19 at the Kelley Theatre.

redemption story provides."

He also hopes the story resonates with the audience at some level.

"Everybody needs redemption from something," he said. "Everybody can be redeemed ..."

The Kelley Theatre show, based on Sam Patter-

son's adaptation of the Dickens novel, features about 100 Victorian-era costumes, period-style sets and an impressive musical score, including 19 old-fashioned Christmas carols and hymns.

"The music's phenomenal," said Joe Holder, who plays the Ghost of Christmas Present. "We're doing ... songs in Old English, Old French, wassailing songs ... 'Joy to the World.' Some of the music I really want to sing, but I can't [because of my role]."

Holder is one of many new faces bringing "A Christmas Carol" to life.

"We have a lot of new actors," Roberts said. There are 37 actors and actresses in the play, and only 10 or so have been involved in Kelley productions before, he added. "They bring a lot of new things to [the show]."

This is Holder's second time to take the stage in his life — and he said the experience of learning to act under Roberts has been very educational.

"He's drawing out of us the emotions of the scenes, not just the lines," Holder said.

Passionate actors like Holder and Heidt will give this well-known story a new perspective, Roberts said, and convey a message he believes is important to remember, especially during the holiday season.

"I just think it's a brilliant message that no matter what, you can be saved," Roberts said. "And if it's by the joy of Christmas, what better?"

The show will run throughout the month of December, with performances on Dec. 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19 at 3 p.m. at the Kelley Theatre.

Tickets are \$12 per adult, \$10 per student. For reservations, call the Stuttgart Theatre Center Box Office at 421-3055/civ. 0711-729-3055.

Stuttgart Law Center Soldiers run Athens marathon

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

Soldiers who work together, run together.

At least, that's the case for Judge Advocates Capt. Jason McKenna and Capt. Scott Goble, and military justice paralegal Spc. Ashley Lopez, all of whom work at the Stuttgart Law Center. Each decided to run in the 28th Athens Classic Marathon Oct. 31, albeit for different reasons.

Lopez wanted to run the marathon to train for the Army 10-miler, and to raise money for a cause: the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

"I figured if I was going to run 26.2 miles for anything, I was going to run it for charity," said Lopez, who raised about \$250 while training for the race.

Lopez first found out about the Athens marathon in a running magazine, then told McKenna and Goble she was going to enter.

McKenna, who had never run in a marathon before, wanted to be part of the historic event: the 2500th anniversary of the Battle of Marathon.

In the battle, a few thousand Athenian and Plataean soldiers defeated the invading Persian army on the plain of Marathon in 490 B.C., according to the

official marathon site, www.athensclassicmarathon.gr.

But the battle is most well-known for the legend of Phillipides, a messenger who ran from the battlefield to Athens to announce victory for the Athenians, then collapsed and died, according to the site.

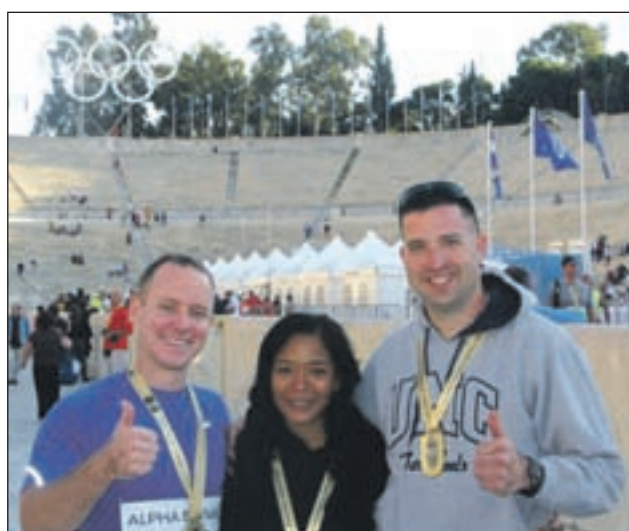
Goble had dreamed of running in a marathon and was about to celebrate his 30th birthday, so he thought the Athens marathon was a great opportunity to realize a goal and celebrate.

"I had just always wanted to run in a marathon at some point in my life, and I decided if I was going to do one, it was going to be 'the' marathon: the one that started it all," he said.

So, all three made the trek to Greece. Having co-workers enter the race with her helped Lopez to finish the marathon — which she says was one of the most daunting tasks she has ever accomplished.

"It was definitely ... the hardest physical thing I've had to overcome since basic training," she said. "I got to do it with people I worked with, and in a way, we have a kind of unspoken bond. We're never going to forget each other after this."

Thousands of runners from around the world competed in the marathon, which



Natalie McKenna

Stuttgart Law Center Soldiers Capt. Jason McKenna (from left), Spc. Ashley Lopez and Capt. Scott Goble pose for a picture in the Athens Olympic stadium after completing the 28th Athens Classic Marathon together Oct. 31.

started at the battlefield of Marathon, and finished at the first modern Olympic stadium in downtown Athens.

"It felt awful," said McKenna, recalling the 26-mile race.

However, he enjoyed the cultural surroundings. "There were people all along the roads with Greek flags offering their support," he said. "Sometimes you stop and take pictures with them."

McKenna also appreciated the camaraderie he built with his fellow co-workers.

"I think it made it absolutely memorable and more meaningful, as opposed

to doing it on your own," he said.

McKenna and Goble trained for the marathon by running together during their office's group physical training sessions for close to three months.

However, McKenna said he never ran more than 15 miles at a time before the marathon.

When asked if he planned to run in another marathon soon, he responded, "I don't think I will. It was more of a check the box thing in life."

And who can blame him?

After all, Phillipides himself only ran it once.

Teacher talk: Parents, teachers seek to fine-tune children's educational experience during face-to-face conferences

By Tanya Fogg Young
Special to The Citizen

Josh Guere and his wife, Kara, recently attended parent-teacher conferences at Böeblingen Elementary/Middle School to gain insight into how their two daughters are adjusting to school.

"It was comforting to know that both of our girls are very respectful at school and continually take pride in their work," Guere said of daughters Jillian, a fifth-grader, and Melanie, a first-grader.

Guere said he and his wife had no special concerns about their youngsters, but just thought it "... important to have some type of parent-teacher interaction to avoid any potential miscommunication," he said.

"Most information is relayed via e-mail or flyer, but sometimes teachers rely on young children to pass information, which is not always reliable," he said.

The four schools in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart recently held parent-teacher conferences, marking the end of the school year's first quarter and the issuing of grade reports. School administrators and teachers stress that the face-to-face meetings with parents are



Susan Huseman

For some, a parent-teacher conference is a family affair. Here, Barbara Poe (from left), a BEMS first-grade teacher, meets with the Guere family: father, Josh, Jillian, 10, Melanie, 6, and mother, Kara, to discuss Melanie's progress.

designed for the benefit of all students, not just those struggling in school.

"The school-home partnerships target all students at all levels," said Michael Johnson, principal of Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle School.

"Improvement of our schools begins with the individual academic and

social improvements of our students. Conferences with our parents are great avenues of individualized attention for their children," he said.

Amy Rush, a fifth-grade teacher at Patch Elementary School, described the recent conferences as "... truly our first big meeting with parents" to inform

them of their children's progress. Rush said she encourages her fifth-graders to attend the meetings with their parents.

"It's a great way to establish that partnership and let kids know we're working together to make sure they receive the best education," she said. "In fifth grade, I like for the children to show up because they can explain their work to their parents and it's not just coming from me. It's a chance for the kids to hold their own."

Patch Elementary kindergarten teacher Melissa Nettleingham requires that each of her students' parents meet in person with her. Nettleingham said it is vital that parents know precisely where their children are academically and where they need to be by the school year's end.

No matter the child's academic level, Nettleingham said she provides her students' parents with tools, such as flash cards and recommendations of web sites, complete with explanations on how best to use them.

"It's super important that they come," she said. "... without parental involvement, students tend to have more behavior problems and struggle more academically."

Students get taste of water purification process at plant

Story & photos by Gloria Colón-Buzatu
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Fifth-graders from Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle School learned how water is reused and sustained during a field trip to a water filtration plant Nov. 17, in conjunction with America Recycles Day.

More than 100 RBEMS students visited the Energie Baden-Württemberg water filtration plant in Stuttgart as part of an environmental outreach program coordinated through EnBW and the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division.

The trip was designed to teach children about water's role on the Earth and encourage them to create a better natural environment, said Robert Gromer, USAG Stuttgart environmental specialist who coordinator the water plant tour.

The tour included a ten-minute documentary film on the Earth's water cycle, a step-by-step tour of the filtration process, a taste of filtered water from local collection sources, and a practical experiment that allowed students to see how unfiltered water is transformed into drinking water.

EnBW specialists assisted the children in a series of experiments that simulated purifying techniques with unfiltered water.

The experiments bring what the children learn in the classroom to life, Gromer said. It's never too early to learn how to conserve the most essential nutrient for the human body — water, he added.

For the past nine years, EnBW and USAG Stuttgart have partnered to provide water plant tours



Students from Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle School listen while an EnBW employee explains the water filtration process Nov. 17.

to students in Department of Defense Dependents Schools here.

The field trip complemented the students' classroom studies on water, said Doreen Weinberg, RBEMS fifth-grade teacher. The students gleaned a better understanding of how a water treatment plant works and where their drinking water comes from, she said.

In fact, they already want to make a difference in conserving natural resources, Weinberg added. Many students have joined the RBEMS Earth Club, established earlier this year, in which they pledge to recycle where they live, work and play, and promote awareness about recycling in the community. The club is open to all students at RBEMS.



Ethan Krauss, a fifth-grader at RBEMS, observes how water usage is monitored by a water meter at an Energie Baden-Württemberg water filtration plant in Stuttgart Nov. 17. DPW's Environmental Division coordinated the field trip, which was held in conjunction with America Recycles Day. The trip was designed to teach the students about water's role on the Earth.



Photos by Brittany Carlson

Petty Officer 1st Class Chuck DePuy starts unpacking clothing in his new hotel room at the Panzer Hotel Nov. 15. He and his wife, Cindy, moved to the hotel from the Swabian Inn.



The DePuy family put away kitchen items in their Panzer Hotel room kitchenette.

Panzer Hotel hosts first guests

The Panzer Hotel opened its doors Nov. 15 to guests who were staying at the Swabian Inn. Several families moved to the hotel to stay in its newly finished rooms as hotel manager Dave Roach and his staff work to finalize the hotel's systems in preparation for its grand opening, scheduled for Dec. 15.

CYS Services sports

Cowboys football team named IMCOM-E champs

By Tanya Fogg Young
Special to The Citizen

Post-season play in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Child, Youth, and School Services Sports Program concluded with its junior tackle football and junior soccer teams progressing to Installation Management Command Europe Region championship games, with one winning it all.

The Stuttgart Cowboys tackle football team defeated the Bamberg Jaguars 14-6 on Nov. 13 in Bamberg to garner the title of IMCOM-E Junior Tackle Football Champions. The Cowboys went into halftime down 6-0 to the Bamberg team.

"It was a hard-fought game and [the Cowboys] pulled it together and came back," said Caitlin Smith, sports and fitness director of USAG Stuttgart CYS Services.

"Their great attitudes and leadership really showed through, having had such strong wins in the West region and then facing the Bamberg team. They worked hard this year and really deserved [the win]," she said.

The Cowboys beat the Mannheim Mustangs 36-14 in division play on Nov. 6 to earn the title of IMCOM-E West Junior Champions. The Cowboys finished the season 9-0, having beaten most opponents by more than 20 points and shutting out teams in five of the seven regular season games, according to Cowboys Head Coach Kenneth McDaniel.

"The season was unbelievable for a brand-new team just getting into the



Photos by Anja Kaczmarek

[Above] Stuttgart Cowboys player Wesley Reynolds (with football), breaks away from a Bamberg player during the CYS Services junior tackle football championship game in Bamberg Nov. 13. The Cowboys won 14-6.

[Right] Stuttgart Cowboys tackle a Bamberg player during the championship game held Nov. 13 in Bamberg.



league," said Leroy Davis, Stuttgart Cowboys offensive coordinator. "Even if we hadn't won this year, it was mostly about teaching them to tackle, run routes — the fundamentals. Winning was the icing on the cake."

The taste of victory was certainly sweet for Davis' son, Cowboys running back Kingston Davis, 13, and teammate Xavier McLean-Burrell, 12,

both students at Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle School.

"The key was the team's heart," said Davis, a seventh-grader who scored 27 touchdowns this season. "We never gave up and if something happened, we always kept cool heads and played hard."

McLean-Burrell, who played cornerback, said he proudly brought both of his

championship trophies to school on the Monday following the Nov. 13 game. "It has been exciting and fun, and it feels like I've built a brotherhood with my teammates," the sixth-grader said.

McDaniel said the team's inaugural season couldn't have ended on a higher note. "By far, our team had the smallest physical size of any of the other teams in the division, yet every child with a Cowboys uniform on contributed," he said.

"Individually, I hope all the kids look back and realize how much hard work and sacrifice pay off. 'One team, one goal' was our motto and we accomplished our goal," he added.

Soccer

The CYS Services junior soccer team (ages 13-15), coached by Kwesi Adinkrah, represented USAG Stuttgart in the IMCOM-E West Championships held Nov. 13 in SHAPE, Belgium, Smith said.

The team progressed to the division championships after winning an in-house tournament among six junior teams in USAG Stuttgart, Smith said.

However, the Stuttgart team lost both of its games, and no West Division champion was determined, since the second day of games was cancelled due to inclement weather, she said.

Even with the losses, CYS Services Sports and Fitness Director Smith said the soccer season was a great one. She noted, too, that there were nearly 900 local youngsters who participated in CYS Services soccer this season.

Army garrisons in Europe stand down for safety

Installation Management Command Europe Public Affairs

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart conducted a series of safety briefings last month on suicide prevention, traffic, workplace and fire safety, along with injury prevention, as part of an Installation Management Command safety stand down to raise awareness.

Garrisons across Europe were directed by IMCOM Commanding General Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch to pause in the wake of an uptick in serious accidents IMCOM-wide that, over the course of the year, have claimed the lives of a Soldier and three Army civilians.

“To [paraphrase] IMCOM’s commanding general, nobody came to

work today planning to screw up,” said Andy Bird, chief of staff, IMCOM, Europe Region.

“These fatalities were preventable tragedies, and ... we owe it to each other and to the victims and their families to step away from the fast-paced environment of our workplaces for a day, take a deep breath and maybe, just maybe, change a behavior that might someday in the future prevent a similar tragedy, accident or injury,” Bird said.

This stand down at Europe garrisons is focused on the whole aspect of safety awareness, from workplace safety, driving safety and fire prevention to seasonal safety, a particular point of concern in Europe.

“With the harsh and unpredictable nature of European winters, winter safety needs to be at the forefront of everyone’s mind, and there is no better opportunity than before the snow flies to re-remind ourselves how to prepare and prevent,” said Mike Schwarz, IMCOM-E safety chief. “

That runs the gamut from recognizing the signs of black ice on Europe’s highways to preventing slips and falls on ice and snow,” he said.

Across IMCOM-E, 22 work accidents occurred last year that resulted in injury, the majority of which were accidents involving a slip or a fall that resulting in injuries primarily to hands, wrists, shoulders and backs,” he continued.

“Snow and ice removal at garrisons is a team effort, and Soldiers and employees need to lend a hand to help make walkways around the garrison safe, as DPW clearing efforts are often concentrated in high-risk, high-traffic areas like schools and child care centers,” Schwarz said.

Total accidental fatality rates in Europe are nearly identical to the overall Army rate at 0.24 per thousand. Across U.S. Army Europe last year, there were seven total accidental fatalities from a variety of causes, including vehicle accidents, fire and one pedestrian fatality.

For more information on safety click on <https://safety.army.mil>.

Are you prepared for winter?

Forecasters are predicting that southern and eastern Europe will be colder than normal this winter season, with more precipitation than previous years.

Everyone should be prepared for loss of heat, power and communications services in their homes.

The time to prepare is now!

Be informed

Know what the road conditions are before you start your trip to work. For the local weather forecast and road conditions, go to www.stuttgart.army.mil and click on the “Weather and Road Condition” link.

For your Home

- Snow shovel
- De-icing compound
- Sand to improve traction
- Water — one gallon per person per day for at least 72 hours
- Food — for at least 72 hours that doesn’t require refrigeration or heating
- Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- Pet food and additional water for household pets
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Battery-powered radio
- First aid kit
- Medicines
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Cell phone with emergency charger
- Tool kit

Get a kit

For your Car

- Winterize your car now and ensure that you maintain fluid levels
- Keep the gas tank near full to avoid freezing water in the fuel lines
- Stock your car with a bag of sand, road salt or kitty litter for weight and traction, if you get stuck, as well as:
- Jumper cables
- Small shovel
- Ice scraper
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Cell phone with charger
- Knife
- First aid kit, warning triangle, and reflective vests
- Blankets, coats, warm clothing
- Water, food and snacks

Make a plan

Your family might not be together when a storm hits, so it is important that everyone knows how to contact one another, what to do in case of an emergency and how you will get back together.

Ensure that your family knows where you will meet, if separated. Choose a place near where you live and another away from your neighborhood.

Ensure that the entire family carries emergency contact numbers to include out-of-town or stateside contacts.

Inquire about emergency plans where you spend time: work, school and child care.

For more information, call the USAG Stuttgart Installation Emergency Manager at 431-2035/civ 07031-15-2035.

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ACS closed Dec. 16

The Army Community Service main office will close for staff development Dec. 16 from 8 a.m. to noon.

For emergencies or appointments, call 431-3362/civ. 07031-15-3362.

Earn a Master of Arts in Education

The University of Phoenix will host an information session on its Master of Arts in Education teacher certification programs on Dec. 7 from 3-4 p.m. at the Panzer Education Center, Room 402B, Building 2915, on Panzer Kaserne.

For more information, e-mail Erin Lipton at erin.lipton@hotmail.com.

Support Angel Tree program

Put a smile on a child's face this holiday season by participating in the annual U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Angel Tree program, ongoing through Dec. 16. Choose an angel ornament from any of the trees located throughout the garrison. Purchase a gift for the age and gender listed on the angel ornament and bring the unwrapped gift to Army Community Service, and the staff will match it with a child.

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

Hand receipt training to be offered

The next Property Book Office hand receipt training will be held Dec. 16 from 9:30-11 a.m. in the Directorate of Logistics conference room, Building 2953, Panzer Kaserne. Register by Dec. 10.

For more information, call DOL Director Karl Heinz-Mueller at 431-1340/civ. 07031-15-1340, or e-mail karlheinz.mueller@us.army.mil.

Panzer DFAC holiday closures

The 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Dining Facility on Panzer Kaserne will be closed Dec. 25-26, Dec. 31 and Jan. 3.

Dental clinic to close on holidays

The Patch Dental Clinic will close Dec. 23-24 and Dec. 30-31 in observance of the training and federal holidays.

In case of an emergency, call the Military Police at civ. 0711-680-116.



Brittany Carlson

'Subway Guy' visits Stuttgart

Jared Fogle, the 'Subway Guy' (right), signs autographs for Patch High School students Mitchell Davis (from left), Michael Melendez and Tyler Czarzasty Nov. 18 in the Patch Barracks Subway restaurant. Fogle, made famous because he lost a significant amount of weight by eating Subway sandwiches, visited U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart as part of a larger European tour, sponsored by Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Commissary holiday closures

In observance of the Christmas and New Year holidays, the commissaries on both Patch Barracks and Panzer Kaserne will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Both will also close early at 4 p.m. on Dec. 24.

Dietician at now at Wellness Center

The Stuttgart Health Clinic and Army Wellness Center now offer the services of a registered dietician.

If you have nutritional concerns, contact the Army Wellness Center at 430-7322/civ. 0711-680-7322 for an appointment.

Red Cross classes

The Stuttgart American Red Cross will host a standard first aid with CPR/AED-adult and child plus infant CPR class Dec. 11 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the ARC office, Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne. Cost is \$40.

A re-certification course (for those with a Basic ARC certification about to expire) is scheduled for Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The course fee is \$12.

Register at the ARC office. For more information, call 431-2812/civ. 07031-15-2812.

Submit AFAP issues

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Army Family Action

Plan program is seeking new ideas to improve the quality of life for U.S. Armed Forces communities worldwide.

Submit an issue to the 2011 AFAP conference either in person at Army Community Service, online at www.stuttgartmwr.com/ACS/afapissue, or by filling out a form and leaving it in an AFAP ballot box, located throughout each installation. The deadline to submit an issue is Jan. 25, 2011.

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

Army Wellness Center classes

The Army Wellness Center Stuttgart will host two classes in December on nutrition. On Dec. 7 a "Nutrition Basics" class will cover basic nutrition

principles.

On Dec. 14, a "Reading Food Labels" class will cover how to read American and German food labels.

The Wellness Center is located in Building 2337 on Patch Barracks.

To sign up for a class, call 430-2997/civ. 0711-680-2997.

PWOC hosts holiday party

Protestant Women of the Chapel will host a holiday celebration Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Patch Religious Education Center.

The event will feature Christmas carols, treats and an ornament exchange.

For more information, e-mail stuttgartpwoc@gmail.com, or call the USAG Stuttgart

Religious Support Office at 431-3079/civ. 07031-15-3079.

AFAP seeks conference volunteers

Volunteer for the 2011 Army Family Action Plan conference and make a difference in the community. A variety of positions are available, including delegates, facilitators, recorders and issue support personnel. Volunteers must commit to the entire conference, which will run Feb. 10-11.

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

GAWC accepting grant requests

The German American Women's Club of Stuttgart is accepting applications for grants from the proceeds of the 2010 Pfennig Bazaar. The application deadline is Jan. 15.

Instructions and the application form can be found online at www.gawc-stuttgart.org.

For more information, e-mail gawcwelfare@hotmail.com.

CMRs seek volunteers for holidays

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Community Mail Rooms on Patch Barracks, Kelley Barracks and Panzer Kaserne are looking for volunteers for the holiday season.

For the Kelley CMR, call 421-2330/civ. 0711-729-2330. For the Patch CMR, call 430-7199 civ. 0711-680-7199. For the Panzer CMR, call 431-3407/civ. 07031-15-3407.

Send community-wide announcements to stuttgart-media@eur.army.mil.

Combined Federal Campaign

USAG Stuttgart's Goal: \$350,000.00

Raised to date: \$476,407.33

136% as of Nov. 29.

Contact Elia Harris at 431-2046/civ. 07031-15-2046.

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Tel: 06 21 - 15 03 00 58



Lt. Col. David Tygart won second place in the Active Duty Nature and Landscapes category with "Nature's Razzberry."



"Mr. Snail" won second place for Chief Warrant Officer 5 William Collins in the Active Duty Animals category.



"Silence Speaks," by Emma Murray, took second place in the Civilian People category.

Harvey Lum won an Honorable Mention for his Civilian Nature and Landscapes entry.



Yash Holbrook won first place in the Civilian Still Life category with "There's One in Every Crowd." Holbrook walked away with seven awards and four Honorable Mentions.



Photo contest highlights local artists

By Susan Huseman

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Yash Holbrook's photographs reveal how he sees the world.

Take Frog Road, between Panzer Kaserne and Patch Barracks, as an example. Most people probably notice the trees and scattered ponds that line the road.

Holbrook, instead, sees the reflections of the trees on the water ... the movement of the water ... a single leaf floating on a glassy surface.

"I notice things out of context. As I'm driving or walking, I notice angles, curves, contrast — the way they interplay, and the light [and] color," he said.

Beads of water on the hood of a car, a rotting orange, a series of canopies floating in a breeze ... these are the images Holbrook

captures with his camera.

"When you zoom in on something, you get an image that people may have not thought to look at," Holbrook said.

Holbrook and 33 other photographers had their images on display in the Patch Library Nov. 3-17 for U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's local competition for the 2010 Army Digital Photography Contest.

Each photographer brought their own perspective to the exhibit. "You can see or drive by the same location a dozen times and never see it the way these photographers do," said Kelly Sarles, the director of USAG Stuttgart's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Arts and Crafts program, which sponsored the local contest.

With 290 entries, the judges had a tough time selecting the winners, according to Mary Allen, a Patch Multi-Crafts Center employee who helped organize the contest.

"We were overwhelmed with the number of submissions we had," she said.

The contest was divided into two divisions: military and civilian. Stuttgart's military division was open to all services.

Photos submitted had to be original works of each participant and taken since September 2009.

Holbrook, a contractor with U.S. European Command J5, along with Army Lt. Col. David Tygart, EUCOM J6, and Air Force Col. Joseph Mancy, U.S. Africa Command, were the big winners at the Nov. 17 awards ceremony.

The three walked away with exactly half of the 48 awards that were handed out.

Tygart, a reservist from Duluth, Minn., and a third-place winner in last year's Army-wide contest, swept the Military Design category for images that emphasize line, shape, pattern, form, texture or perspective.

His winning images focused on architecture, something he had never shot before.

He found Stuttgart to be rife with inspiration. "After the categories were announced, I went out locally one weekend and found all three buildings within 100 meters of each other," said Tygart.

While Tygart was out shooting close to home, Col. Mancy found success shooting people, his favorite subject, in exotic locations, such as Egypt.

Mancy likes the challenge that photographing people presents. "In order to get the right expression from the person in front of the lens, you have to engage your subject and project yourself, especially in foreign cultures," he said.

Though Mancy has years of experience as a photographer, this was the first contest he has entered.

"I thought the contest was really put together well, and the opportunity to compete at the Army level is really neat," he said.

The winning photographs, including those that won honorable mentions, will now be entered in the Department of the Army-level contest.

"I notice angles, curves, contrast — the way they interplay, and the light [and] color."

Yash Holbrook
local photography contest winner

Active Duty People

1. "Egyptian Farmer," Col.
2. "Evil Fairy," Lt. C
3. "Eyes That Speak," Col.

Military Life

1. "Sardines," Col.
2. "Airdrop at Dawn," Col.
3. "Contrasts," Sgt.

Nature and Landscapes

1. "Woodland Shrum," Col.
2. "Nature's Razzberry," Col.
3. "Into the Wild," M

Animals

1. "Scavenger," Col.
2. "Mr. Snail," Chief Warrant Officer 5 William Collins
3. "Cleared for Landing," Col.

Still Life

1. "Three Cheers," Col.
2. "Red Bike," Col.
3. "Three Pipes," Lt.

Design

1. "Sunset Under Glass," Col.
2. "Sixties Curves," Col.
3. "Office Curves," Col.

Digital Darkroom

1. "Reaching Out," Sgt.
2. "Lucerne," Col. J
3. "Dream Big," Col.

Monochrome

1. "Farmer's Wife," Col.
2. "Taking Them Home," Col.
3. "Caution!," Chief Warrant Officer 5 William Collins



Col. John Ruffing's "Red Bike" took second place in the Active Duty Still Life category. Ruffing also won a second place in the Digital Darkroom category.



"Contrasts," Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Hall's Active Duty Military Life category entry, won third place. Hall also took first in the Digital Darkroom category.



Brian Scoggins' "Stuttgart" won an Honorable Mention in the Civilian Landscape category.



Steve Cullum won second place in the Civilian Digital Darkroom category for his "Volksfest." He also took first place in the same category.



Lisa Cramer Von Clausbruch won first place for "Path" in the Civilian Monochrome category. She also earned an honorable mention in the same category, and won second place in Nature and Landscapes.

2010 USAG Stuttgart FMWR Digital Photography Contest winners

Civilian People

er," Col. Joseph Mancy
ol. David Tygart
k," Col. Joseph Mancy

Joseph Mancy
," Col. Joseph Mancy
1st Class Joshua Hall
caples

s," Lt. Col. David Tygart
ry," Lt. Col. David Tygart
aj. Michael Livingston

l. Joseph Mancy
rant Officer 5 William Collins
ng," Col. Joseph Mancy

Lt. Col. David Tygart
John Ruffing
t. Col. David Tygart

ss," Lt. Col. David Tygart
Lt. Col. David Tygart
Lt. Col. David Tygart

gt. 1st Class Joshua Hall
ohn Ruffing
l. Joseph Mancy

Col. Joseph Mancy
ne," Lt. Col. David Tygart
ef Warrant Officer 5

1. "Lemon-Y Little Jack Horner," Aaron Norton
2. "Silence Speaks," Emma Murray
3. "Shopping Break," Maddie Holbrook

Military Life

1. "Vivid Strength," Kendell Bauer-Barkowski
2. "Jets," Renee Ward-Cizek
3. "Jet Stop," Renee Ward-Cizek

Nature and Landscapes

1. "Cadiz Winter," Karen Kindler
2. "Lemons," Lisa Cramer Von Clausbruch
3. "Motion and Stillness," Yash Holbrook

Animals

1. "Choose Him, No, Him," Maddie Holbrook
2. "Broken Wings," Yash Holbrook
3. "The Non-Conformist," Yash Holbrook

Still Life

1. "One in Every Crowd," Yash Holbrook
2. "SOS Please," Renee Ward-Cizek
3. "My Guitar," Maribeth Emrick

Design

1. "Gonzaga Sill," Rachel Mord
2. "Malaga Siesta," Yash Holbrook
3. "What on Earth Should I Call This One?," Yash Holbrook

Digital Darkroom

1. "Volksfest," Steven Cullum
2. "San Diego Skyline," Steven Cullum
3. "Elation," Kendell Bauer-Barkowski

Monochrome

1. "Path," Lisa Cramer Von Clausbruch
2. "Louvre," Renee Ward-Cizek
3. "Ghost Trees," Yash Holbrook

Karen Kindler won first place in the Civilian Nature and Landscapes category for her "Cadiz Winter." Kindler also won two Honorable Mentions in People and Digital Darkroom categories.



Col. Joseph Mancy's "Eyes that Speak" took third place in the Active Duty People category. Mancy also won first place in the same category for "Egyptian Farmer."

Giunta joins Pentagon's Hall of Heroes

By Terri Moon Cronk

American Forces Press Service

Army Staff Sgt. Salvatore A. Giunta's decision to risk his life so others could live placed him "squarely among the most magnificent of those worthy of this honor," said Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates Nov. 17, as the nation's first living Medal of Honor recipient in 40 years was inducted into the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes.

President Barack Obama awarded Giunta the Medal of Honor Nov. 16 in a White House ceremony.

Three years ago, Giunta, then a specialist, was a 22-year-old rifle team leader serving in Afghanistan's Korengal Valley with the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team's Company B, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, when insurgents attacked his squad in October 2007. When approaching insurgents formed an L-shaped ambush, splitting Giunta's squad into two groups, Giunta braved enemy fire to pull a squad member back to cover.

Giunta saved a second Soldier while trying to connect with the other half of his squad. He saw two insurgents carrying off the second squad member and



Medal of Honor recipient Army Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta thanks his teammates from Company B, 2nd Battalion, Airborne, 503rd Infantry Regiment, and all those that helped shape his life, during his induction ceremony into the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon Nov. 17.

Cherie Cullen

recovered him while shooting and killing one enemy fighter, and wounding and driving off others. Giunta administered medical aid to the wounded Soldier, but in spite of his efforts, the Soldier died the next day during surgery.

"The Medal of Honor, our nation's highest award for valor, recognizes those who distinguish themselves conspicuously by gallantry, intrepidity at risk of their lives above and beyond the call of duty," Gates said at the Hall of Heroes ceremony. "All too often, those who meet that high standard do so at the cost of their lives — this has been especially true

of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. So it is indeed an occasion of great thankfulness and celebration when we can welcome one of these warriors home."

"While we can never fail or forget to honor the fallen," Gates said, "we also need living heroes — heroes who overcame every fear, every obstacle, to inspire, to teach and ennoble us by what they have done ... heroes like Sal Giunta.

"I say this because we're in the tenth year of a conflict fought on distant shores, waged by the few for the sake of the many," Gates continued. "A com-

plex, and at times, a confusing struggle against enemies [who] lurk among the innocent, it is a conflict that lacks the traditional battle lines, clash of armies and clear-cut definition associated in the public mind with major wars."

Yet the fundamental nature of war, Gates added, and the roles of individual selflessness, initiative and courage do not change.

Gates told Giunta he saw a television interview this week in which Giunta called himself "just a middleman ... representing all those who have served and sacrificed in Iraq and Afghanistan."

"Sergeant, your modesty and your humility, together with valor, truly sets you apart," Gates said. "Though you call yourself 'mediocre,' you are clearly exceptional, even among the fellow warriors you so graciously extolled."

More importantly, Gates told Giunta, "You are a living example, a reminder to America that there are heroes, modern heroes, who live and walk among us — heroes who are still fighting and dying to protect us every day.

"Your valor and courage for your comrades and the entire generation of warriors you so ably represent offers enduring hope for the future of our country," Gates said.

SOCEUR enhances Slovak special ops intel capacity

Story & photo by Master Sgt. Donald Sparks

Special Operations Command Europe
Public Affairs Office

Special forces units are often charged with going into unfamiliar, remote and potentially dangerous areas to gather intelligence and conduct operations independent of external support.

Recognizing the importance of improving these capabilities, members of the Slovak 5th Special Forces Regiment, asked U.S. Special Operations Command Europe, intelligence leaders to provide a forum for them to build upon their own detachment-level intelligence capacity.

The SOCEUR J-2 Intelligence Directorate developed a program of instruction and conducted several tactical intel seminars from January through October 2010, to provide a basic understanding of the unit-level requirements that a special forces intelligence operator would need in the field.

The program was divided into four one-week seminars — three held at the 5th SFR headquarters in Zilina, Slovakia, and the fourth held in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Oct. 18-22.

The first seminar focused on intelligence basics and tools. The operators were given an overview of the Battlefield Information, Collection, and Exploitation System, a NATO secret-level computer network used in Afghanistan.

"We started with the very basics — giving the Slovaks the tools necessary to conduct intelligence support for tactical-level operations," said Lt. Cmdr. Mark Steliga, the SOCEUR J-2 lead officer for Partner Nation Development.

The second seminar included introductory classes

on different types of intelligence, methods to process this intelligence, and different ways to utilize this information to support the planning and execution of unit-level operations.

The third seminar focused on the duties and responsibilities of a special forces intelligence sergeant. Students then practiced in "on the ground" situations, based on real intelligence from Afghanistan.

"This was where we wanted them to really start thinking about what [they] need to do to support real world operations and come up with the products critical to mission success," Steliga said.

The fourth seminar focused on techniques normally thought of as detective skills. During this session, the Slovaks were introduced to biometric and forensic analysis, as well as more advanced methods of finding and exploiting evidence.

To complete the final exercise, the Slovaks had to produce a complete target intelligence package, with a target description, threats and vulnerabilities, as well as demographics and cultural information. They then had to brief their results, in English, to senior leaders from the Slovak and SOCEUR staffs.

According to Col. Mike Faruqi, SOCEUR's director of intelligence, the opportunity to support SOF intelligence personnel is of vital importance to both the U.S. and its allies.

"SOF has a very unique role, and this type of engagement is essential to what we're trying to do for our collective national security interests," Faruqi said.

After completing the seminar, one of the Slovak intelligence sergeants had high praise for the instruction he received during the nine-month period. "I wanted to learn new intelligence techniques — new ways to do my job as an intelligence sergeant so I



Military Intelligence NCOs assigned to the Slovakian 5th Special Forces Regiment, learn how to use the Secure Electronic Enrollment Kit Oct. 18 on Patch Barracks as part of a program sponsored by U.S. Special Operations Command Europe.

can be better in my mission," he said. "We were very receptive to this course and were very impressed with what we were learning. I feel more relevant as to what I can provide for my guys. In the past, we could not have been such a valuable asset to the commander."

National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month

‘3D Month’ focuses on keeping drivers sober and safe

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Alcohol-impaired driving endangers the health and lives of drinking drivers, their passengers, and others on the road.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

- Every day, 32 people in the U.S. die in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver. This amounts to one death every 45 minutes.
- One in three fatal motor vehicle crashes involves an alcohol-impaired driver.
- Alcohol-impaired driving takes an especially high toll on young people. One of every three drivers ages 21-24 who was killed in a motor vehicle crash in 2008

had a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.08 (which is above the legal limit in the U.S.) or above.

German law deals harshly with driving under the influence.

Here, if a person is involved in a vehicular accident and his or her blood alcohol concentration is above 0.03, this person will be held responsible for the accident and any damages that may have occurred.

During the holiday season and year-round, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Army Substance Abuse Program officials urge community members to take steps to make sure that they and everyone they celebrate with avoids driving under the influence of alcohol.

Whenever social activities involve alcohol, make plans so that you don't have to drive after drinking. For example:

- Prior to any drinking, designate a non-drinking driver when with a group.
- Don't let your friends drive impaired. Take their keys away.
- If you have been drinking, get a ride home or call a taxi.
- If you're hosting a party where alcohol will be served, remind your guests to plan ahead and designate their sober driver, offer alcohol-free beverages, and make sure all guests leave with a sober driver.



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Here, if a person is involved in a vehicular accident and his or her BAC is above 0.03, this person will be held responsible for the accident ...

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See, touch, taste Middle Ages at Esslingen Christmas market

By Carola Meusel

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Visitors to Esslingen are often impressed by the city's medieval character and feel connected to days long gone.

During the holiday season, they can see those medieval days come back to life — including traveling minstrels, craftsmen selling wares, and roasted pig on a spit — during Esslingen's Mittelaltermarkt und Weihnachtsmarkt (medieval market and Christmas market).

The traditional Christmas market is located at the Marktplatz (market square), while the medieval market winds its way from the old town hall to the Hafenmarkt (harbor market).

The medieval market features arts and crafts, homemade food, entertainment and hands-on experiences recreating the way of life in the Middle Ages.

"During the Christmas market, we turn the clock back in time for about 600 years to enter Esslingen's medieval era," said Petra Pfeiffer, from Stadtmarketing Esslingen, who is responsible for organizing the Christmas market each year.

"All vendors, artists and craftsmen wear the typical medieval garments, and they approach visitors using the language of medieval times. We aim to be authentic; we try to 'live' the Middle Ages," she added.

Visitors will have the opportunity to witness the 3,000-year-old art of glassblowing, which peaked during the late Middle Ages. Another highlight will be the blacksmith's shop, where people can find silver jewelry, lanterns, swords and decorated boxes.

The letterpress was revolutionary during the Middle Ages, and visitors can learn more about the process of printing at the "Druckerei" (printing shop).



Esslinger Stadtmarketing & Tourismus GmbH

A juggler entertains visitors during last year's medieval market in Esslingen.

They can also purchase hand-crafted baskets, furniture, woven scarves and many other medieval-inspired products.

"The market is an adventure. People are able to see what everyday life was like in the Middle Ages," said Pfeiffer. "They are able to watch the craftsmen conducting and offering their work, and they can also participate and get the hands-on experience by creating their own handmade piece of art."

The medieval market also offers colorful entertain-

ment: fire-breathers, jugglers, music and medieval dance performances. Visitors can also forge their own sword or play roulette with a live mouse.

"It's the most impressive Christmas market I have ever seen in Germany," said Staff Sgt. Frank Gourley, a member of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Five Star Brass Quintet, which is set to perform at the Esslingen Christmas market on Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

"The market has this quaint and unique atmosphere, and it's so interesting to see people wearing the traditional period costumes," he added.

People who lived during the Middle Ages also had a penchant for eating. Therefore, visitors will find a variety of food ranging from hearty meat dishes, brats and soups to oriental, organic and vegetarian delicacies. For dessert, they can try a baked apple covered in vanilla sauce with raisins and nuts.

"I really liked the delicious 'medieval hot pockets' filled with bacon and cheese," said Gourley.

The typical medieval honey wine, or "Met," an alcoholic drink made out of honey, water, fruit juices, spicy herbs and yeast — also known as "viking's blood" — is served in clay mugs.

People who are still not warmed up after drinking this medieval brew can stop by the bathing house, for a hot bath in a wooden tub.

From the sights and sounds to the tastes of food and experiences, visitors to Esslingen's medieval market will feel as if they've been transported back in time.

This year's medieval and Christmas markets are open daily from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. through Dec. 22. For more information in English, visit www.esslingen.de/servlet/PB/menu/1290650_12/index.html.

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

International Baptist Church of Stuttgart



Services:
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English Christmas in Stuttgart
 English Lessons and Carols Service
 December 12, 2010
 5:00 pm
 St. Leonhardkirche
 (near the B14/Charlottenplatz)
 The Christmas story in scripture and song

Christmas Eve Service
 December 24, 2010
 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm
 St. Catherine's Kirche (Katharinenplatz 5)
 A evening of carols, candles and communion

For more info: www.stcatherines-stuttgart.de




What's happening in FMWR

Don't miss Winterfest

The annual U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Winterfest celebration will be Dec. 3 from 4-9 p.m. in the parking lot next to Husky Field on Patch Barracks. Come and enjoy musical performances, free rides, food, beverages, a community tree lighting ceremony and a visit from Santa.

For more information, call 421-3152/civ. 0711-729-3152.

Kelley Club now open Saturday

The Kelley Club now has weekend hours. It is open Saturday from 4:30-7:30 p.m. for dinner, and the lounge is open from 4:30-10 p.m.

The club is closed Sunday, except during NFL football season (through Feb. 6), when it will be open from 4:30-10 p.m.

Instructors needed

Instructors are needed to teach piano, stringed instruments, woodwind instruments, martial arts, swimming, driver's education and other child/youth specialized programs for the Child, Youth and School Services School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills in U.S. Army

Garrison Stuttgart. Instructors must be 18 years old or older.

For more information, call 430-5606/civ. 0711-680-5606, or e-mail StuttgartCYS@googlemail.com.

FMWR is hiring

A variety of regular and flexible positions are available through the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Directorate for Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

The Nonappropriated Fund Human Resources Office is accepting applications for various NAF positions within Child, Youth and School Services, Business Operations and Community Recreation, including the Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center.

For more information, stop by the NAF HRO at the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center in Building 2948 on Panzer Kaserne or call 431-3119/civ. 07031-15-3119. Visit <http://cpolrhp.belvoir.army.mil/eur/employment/naf/index.htm> for vacancy announcements and the NAF Job Application Kit.

For MWR updates, e-mail mwrmarketing@eur.army.mil.



Coming to Patch Theater

Dec. 2 — Alpha and Omega (PG) 6 p.m.

Dec. 3 — Tangled (PG) 6 p.m., The Town (R) 9 p.m.

Dec. 4 — Tangled (PG) 4 p.m., You Again (PG) 7 p.m., The Town (R) 9 p.m.

Dec. 5 — Tangled (PG) 2 p.m., Tangled (PG) 4 p.m., You Again (PG) 7 p.m.

Dec. 6 — Tangled (PG) 6 p.m.

Dec. 7 — The Town (R) 6 p.m.

Dec. 8 — You Again (PG) 6 p.m.

Dec. 9 — The Town (R) 6 p.m.

Dec. 10 — The Tourist (PG-13) 7 p.m., Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.

Dec. 11 — Alpha and Omega (PG) 4 p.m., Easy A (PG-13) 7 p.m., The Tourist (PG-13) 9 p.m.

Dec. 12 — Alpha and Omega (PG) 2 p.m., Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole (PG) 4 p.m., The Tourist (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Dec. 13 — The Tourist (PG-13) 6 p.m.



Walt Disney Pictures

Dec. 14 — Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Dec. 15 — Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole (PG) 6 p.m.

For more information, visit www.stuttgart.army.mil and click on "Patch Movies."

Family & MWR Featured Events

www.stuttgartmwr.com



HOLIDAY CONCERTS

SONGS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Special Holiday Concerts featuring Jennifer Buxkemper (Soprano) & Alan Buxkemper (Pianist)

December 20

Monday 7:30 p.m.

Stuttgart Theatre Center on Kelley

For more information call:

DSN 421 2825, CIV 0711 729 2825

December 22

Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

Brewed Awakenings Café on RB

For more information call:

DSN 420 6037, CIV 0711 819 6037



HOLIDAY SPECIALS

HOLIDAY PRO SHOP SALE

Discounts on all merchandise. Cookies for all shoppers!

December 11

Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Pro Shop at the Stuttgart Golf Course in Kornwestheim

For more information call: 07141 879 151

COOKIE EXCHANGE

Swap cookies and enjoy many flavors.

December 15

Brewed Awakenings Café on RB

For more information call:

DSN 420 6037, CIV 0711 819 6037



COMMUNITY

BGCA FINE ARTS EXHIBIT

Come and view artwork from our local Elementary, Middle School and High School Students

December 15 - 18

4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Patch Library

For more information call:

DSN 430 7204, CIV 071 680 7204

AFAP CONFERENCE

Make a difference in your community by volunteering at the 2011 Army Family Action Plan Conference in February.

For more information call:

DSN 431 3362, CIV 07031 15 3362





Robert Watkins, with football, dashes for his first of two touchdowns to lead U.S. Special Operations Command Europe to a 20-6 victory over its archrivals, SOCEUR Signal Detachment, in the 12th annual Turkey Bowl flag football game. The victory ended an 11-year winless streak for SOCEUR and earned them the coveted Toilet Bowl trophy.

SOCEUR ends 11-year slide to signal detachment in annual Turkey Bowl

Story & photos by Master Sgt. Donald Sparks
SOCEUR Public Affairs Office

For 11 years, the agony of defeat hung over the heads of the U.S. Special Operations Command Europe flag football players. Year after year, the team suffered losses at the hands of their rivals, the Soldiers of the SOCEUR Signal Detachment.

The Turkey Bowl football game, held annually between the SOCEUR staff versus the SSD/SOCEUR J-6 Communications Directorate, began in 1999 as a result of a challenge between internal staff directorates.

Whether the spirited gridiron battles were blowouts or not, the results were still the same — the coveted Toilet Bowl trophy went to the hands of SSD.

After last season's one-point loss to SSD, Robert Watkins made a promise to SOCEUR's departing senior enlisted leader, Command Master Chief Troy Ivie, that he would bring the Toilet Bowl to SOCEUR. Keeping true to his word, Watkins nabbed two interceptions, caught two touchdown passes and threw a touchdown pass, propelling SOCEUR to a 20-6 victory.

"I had a whole year to stew on the loss, and there was no way I was going to allow us to lose this game or let him down," Watkins said.

On its second possession, SOCEUR center Jake McCartney turned back-to-back receptions into long yardage gains, catching SSD by surprise. SOCEUR then took a 7-0 lead as Watkins capped the 10-play, 65-yard drive with a 25-yard touchdown reception from quarterback Clarence Petersen. Watkins also scored the extra point.

Going into halftime with zero

points, SSD team captain Brian Brown tried to rally his team to not allow "a bunch of old men" to out-hustle them on the field.

In the second half, Watkins snatched his second touchdown reception on a trick play in which Petersen threw a lateral pass to Bruce Barry, who then threw a perfect spiral to Watkins, wide open in the end zone. After Petersen ran in the extra point conversion, SOCEUR led 14-0, giving hope to its fans that they could possibly pull out a victory.

Then, that feeling of déjà vu following years of defeat to SSD crept into the SOCEUR sidelines as the men of SSD broke the shutout, scoring when their quarterback, Bennie Pokemire, threw a 35-yard touchdown pass to Thomas Fisher, who made a miraculous catch over the outstretched hands of Barry, making the score 14-6.

However, Watkins nailed the coffin on SOCEUR's losing streak after snatching his second interception of the



Robert Watkins holds the Toilet Bowl trophy after leading SOCEUR to victory during the Turkey Bowl.

game on defense and then following up on offense by tossing a 40-yard touchdown pass to a wide-open Jim Gregory to close out the scoring at 20-6.

After the final whistle blew, SSD players stood in disbelief as they watched SOCEUR players storm the field. Brown called his players in to console them in defeat.

"I told my players it's not a matter of failure, but how you react in defeat," Brown said. "Although this is my last game, I told them next year when I call to hear the results of the game, I'd better hear the Toilet Bowl is back home where it belongs — SSD."

SPORTS SHORTS

Harlem Globetrotters to play at Patch

Armed Forces and Navy Entertainment team up to bring the world famous Harlem Globetrotters to the Patch Fitness Center on Dec. 5 from 3-4:30 p.m. A brief autograph signing will occur after the game.

Doors will open at 2 p.m. Seating is limited.

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

Put Lose to Win on your calendar

Lose to Win, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's version of "The Biggest Loser," starts in January.

The Lose to Win Challenge is a 12-week program designed to enhance an individual's overall fitness level and awareness.

Registration and program briefings will be held Jan. 6-7 in the Patch Theater.

For more information, call the Patch Fitness Center at 430-7136/civ. 0711-680-7136.

Winter intramural sports to start

- The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart ladies' community basketball team is seeking players and coaches. Participants must be ID cardholders, over 18.

- Intramural mixed bowling league starts in January. Spaces are limited, so sign up early.

For more information, call Matt Gilliard, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation sports programmer, at 430-4512/0711-680-4512.

Backlot Bar hosts NFL Sundays

Spend NFL Sundays at the Backlot Bar in the Patch Community Club on Patch Barracks. Watch NFL football on the big screen and sample free food every Sunday at 7 p.m. Check AFN for the most up-to-date game schedule at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/ScheduleChart.aspx>.

Grab a punch card and get a stamp for every beverage you purchase; fill up a card and enter to win a large-screen TV on Super Bowl Sunday.

For more information, call 430-5433/civ. 0711-680-5433.

Winter sports safety tips

- When skiing or snowboarding, always have a partner. Keep each other accountable for calling it quits after sunset.
- Wear sufficient layers that will stay dry, such as a waterproof shell top and pants over non-cotton pants and shirts. Be careful not to over-layer, which can overheat.
- Wear a helmet, no matter your skill level.
- Keep your equipment tuned and maintained. Ski and snowboard edges should always be sharp.
- Stay hydrated.

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Fish & Reptile Fair Sindelfingen



The 10th **Fish & Reptile Messe** in Sindelfingen from December 3rd to 5th 2010 will celebrate with small and large animal displays of all kinds. They are giving away 20 aquariums with technology and literature to interested schools. Specialists show the students and teachers how an aquarium is constructed, arranged, formed and maintained. All visitors can participate in the fair's anniversary with their

entrance ticket for a chance to win an aquarium with a value of 1,000 Euros. The fair offers a free child care facility for your child, where they can color and enter in the 10th Fish & Reptile coloring contest offering attractive prizes. For complete information on the fair visit our website

www.fisch-reptil.de
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