

THE CITIZEN

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U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

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Serving the Greater Stuttgart Military Community

Full steam ahead

New construction nears completion on Panzer, Kelley

Story & photos by Brittany Carlson
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Last year was a year of breaking ground, but this is a year of cutting ribbons. In 2009, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart leaders dug their shovels into fresh dirt to begin several new construction projects, including the Kelley Barracks Shoppette and Child Development Center, and the Panzer Hotel on Panzer Kaserne.

Since then, construction workers and project managers have worked to finish these new buildings, and, in 2010, community members will get to see the fruits of their labor.

Panzer Hotel

Construction on the \$34.5 million Panzer Hotel, funded by the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Headquarters' Army Lodging department, began in January 2009.

It is anticipated to be completed in early June and open for guests around Sept. 1, according to Dave Roach, Kelley Hotel manager and future manager of the Panzer Hotel.

The hotel project is managed by the USAG Stuttgart Directorate of Public Works, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the German construction agency, SHBA (Staatliches Hochbauamt Reutlingen).

It is designed to meet anti-terrorism/force protection standards, as well as the highest project standard, the LEED Sustainable Project Gold Standard Rating, according to Norm Seare, DPW project manager and general engineer.

The Panzer Hotel will house 218 hotel rooms — including 69 standard rooms, 84 extended rooms and 65 family suites — on seven floors, Seare said.

A few sample rooms are already finished, and received a visit by Gen. Carter F. Ham, U.S. Army Europe commander, on Jan. 21.

Ham could only find one issue: "The problem is, people aren't going to want to leave," he said.

He was also impressed with the plan for an indoor fitness room, breakfast area by the lobby



Inside a finished sample room of the Panzer Hotel, Col. Richard M. Pastore (from left), USAG Stuttgart commander, views a model of the hotel with Gen. Carter F. Ham, USAREUR commander, Jan. 21.

and variety of rooms, including pet-friendly rooms and family suites.

"This will give families, as they join this community, a very positive first experience," Ham said, "and we all know how important that is."

Ten rooms will follow the Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines for full handicap accessibility, said Roach, hotel manager. In addition, all rooms will have kitchenettes, and some will have cooktops, a feature Roach believes will be a hit.

"It gives people coming here with families, or for an extended period of time, more options to cook in the rooms and have family-style meals," he said.

Each room is also equipped with an energy-

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Job fair helps injured Soldiers

By Susan Huseman
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Healing is a warrior in transition's mission.

After 18 months of therapy and treatment, Staff Sgt. Tyrone C. Basnight, assigned to the Warrior Transition Unit in Kaiserslautern, has accomplished that mission and is about to transition to civilian life.

The 20-year veteran and his wife attended the Association of the U.S. Army Stuttgart Chapter Job Fair in the Marriott Hotel in Sindelfingen Jan. 15.

"My ideal job would be something dealing with photography," said Basnight, 38, who expects to be medically retired from the military by March 1. "It's my passion."

But the signal support systems specialist from Pittsburgh, Pa., interviewed with representatives from 20 major defense contractors and Defense Department agencies for a position more closely aligned with his military experience.

"If you find a good job, you've got to take it," said Basnight, the father of five. "Here, [good jobs] seem to be everywhere, so you've got to pick the right one."

This is the second year that the AUSA Stuttgart chapter has sponsored the job fair, with the support of U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Army Community Service.

"We're providing the service member in Europe with the ability to access major defense companies," said AUSA's Bill Campbell, who organized the event. The flip side, he said, is that the job fair provides defense contractors access to eager, willing and qualified employees.

Defense contractors and government agencies find that military vets are ideally suited for employment.

"For us, because we are a defense contractor, [military veterans] know our customer better than anyone else because they used to be our customers," said Joanna Peyton, of Computer Sciences Corporation.

Chris Foley, Lockheed Martin's program manager for Europe, agreed. "Military vets come in and can do the job on Day One. They bring quality, loyalty and mission focus — that's everything we are about,"

See Job fair on page 6

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MLK Jr. still serves as inspiration

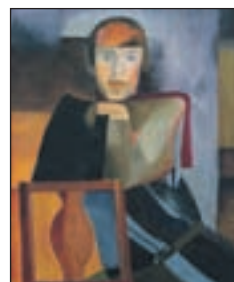
The USAG Stuttgart Martin Luther King Jr. celebration Jan. 12 focused on King's service and the service opportunities community members have today.



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Art museum delivers fresh perspective

The Kunstmuseum Stuttgart, located on the Schlossplatz downtown, showcases modern artwork that explores the question: "What is art?"



INSIDE
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EDITION

Army Family Covenant still delivering to Army families

Commentary by Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch

Installation Management Command commander

On Oct. 8, 2007, the Army unveiled the Army Family Covenant, institutionalizing the Army's commitment to providing Soldiers and families — active duty, National Guardsmen, and reserve — a quality of life commensurate with their quality of service.

However, as I travel around, meeting with Army Soldiers and families, I'm surprised to find that many are not familiar with the AFC and the commitment Army leadership has made to provide a better quality of life to Soldiers and families.

We are delivering the AFC with a focus on five specific areas: standardization and funding of existing programs and services; increasing accessibility and quality of health care; improving Soldier and family housing; ensuring excellence in schools, youth services and child care, and expanding education and employment opportunities for family members.

Over the past two years, we have standardized Army community staffing and programs at all garrisons; added 1,079 family readiness support assistants positions to provide administrative and logistical support to commanders and Family Readiness Group leaders; funded Exceptional Family Member respite care, providing up to 40 hours of care per month for families, and increased primary care visits to more than seven million people.

I am dedicated to delivering on the Army leadership's promise to continue to provide the best care and quality of life possible to Soldiers and their families. Our commitment to delivering the Army Family Covenant is non-negotiable.

We have also met access standards for 90 percent of acute, routine and specialty appointments, authorized TRICARE standard coverage for more than 500,000 eligible members of the Selective Reserve and their family members and lowered the co-payment.

In addition, we have funded the Training Barracks Modernization Program to allow 11,306 Soldiers to move into newly-designed or renovated barracks in fiscal year 2009, and introduced the First Sergeants Barracks Initiative to enhance single Soldier quality of life. The AFC reduced the financial burden on Army families by eliminating Child, Youth and School Services registration fees and by reducing program fees. In collaboration with more than 373 school districts, it also supported military-connected students transferring to new school districts.

We have helped to increase placement of military spouses through the Army Spouse Employment Program, a partnership with Fortune 500 companies and government agencies.

We are indeed making progress on delivering the Army Family Covenant, but we have much more work to do. I am dedicated to delivering on the Army leadership's promise to continue to provide the best care and quality of life possible to Soldiers and their families.

Our commitment to delivering the Army Family Covenant is non-negotiable. We will not depart from this commitment.

I would ask that we always take the time to accentuate the positive. We have so very much to be thankful for when it comes to health care, housing, services and programs, and many other things. Many times, we immediately start talking about negative items, and many of those conversations are based on anecdotal evidence without firsthand knowledge.

Let's be grateful for what we have, and strive together to improve. An attitude of appreciation will go a long way. Optimism is a combat multiplier.

As always, thanks for your continued service to our Army and our nation. Together, we are making history.

THE CITIZEN

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ON THE STREET

What do you want to accomplish this year?



Catherine Gwinner
(Army spouse)

"Spend more time with family."



Zac Schoonover
(Family member)

"Make money and pay for college."



Spc. Corinna Jenkins
(U.S. Army)

"Pursue my music career."



Spc. Patrick Edwards
(U.S. Army)

"Start running again before spring."



Capt. Nathan Morehouse
(U.S. Marine Corps)

"Spend more time with my children."



Gunnery Sgt. Iyiola Dada
(U.S. Marine Corps)

"Start my business firm and finish my master's [degree]."



Master Sgt. John Poortinga
(U.S. Air Force Reserves)

"Meet some personal goals and find full-time employment in Europe."



Lt. Col. Chris Buzatu
(U.S. Army)

"Get into better shape."



Birgit Thompson

Roter Stich used to run through RB. Now, a new fence separates the installation from the German community. U.S. housing units on the western side of Roter Stich were turned over to Stuttgart in 2008.

RB continues to transition

By Carola Meusel

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Most people refer to Robinson Barracks as one of the most scenic military installations in Stuttgart. This is mainly because of its location on top of the wine hills between Bad Cannstatt and Zuffenhausen, which provides residents with an impressive view of Baden-Württemberg's capital.

Robinson Barracks, named after World War II Medal of Honor recipient 1st Lt. James E. Robinson, Jr., has undergone various changes throughout the years.

It is located in an area that was used for agricultural purposes until 1934, when the German armed forces took over the land to build Flandern and Grenadier Kasernes for its 119th Infantry Regiment. After World War II, these caserns were then used as camps for displaced people.

In 1949, the U.S. Army took over the military installation for the U.S. Military Logistical Support Headquarters for the greater Stuttgart area.

Between 1950 and 1957, apartment buildings, shopping centers, restaurants, a school and a chapel were built to support military personnel and their families.

In 1993, the southern part of Robinson Barracks was returned to the German federal government and the city of Stuttgart.

Stuttgart developed this land into a residential area known as "Burgholzshof" between 1996 and 2006, which now houses approximately 3,000 residents.

All of Grenadier Kaserne's buildings, located in Stuttgart's Rot district, were torn down in 2000 except for one, the home of the federal government's registrar office.

"Roter Stich" is the street that intersected Robinson Barracks, connecting the district of Rot with Pragsattel, Stuttgart's main traffic road.

The fact that Roter Stich has always been open to the public (except when force protection exercises were conducted), led to various discussions between the U.S. Forces, the German federal government and the city of Stuttgart, especially after the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

Due to possible terrorist threats against the U.S. Forces and force protection concerns, the U.S. military petitioned for the closure of the street.

In 2008, the U.S. Forces returned the western part of Roter Stich, including six apartment buildings and five homes for officers, to the city of Stuttgart.

"The land swap in 2008 allowed the street to remain open, and offered a successful solution between the U.S. Forces, the federal government and the city of Stuttgart," said Theodore Schulze, deputy U.S. Forces liaison officer in Stuttgart.

However, the land swap is still subject to a special agreement between Stuttgart and the U.S. Forces.

"With the land swap, the city of Stuttgart committed to build a new street within the military installation so that people are able to access the housing area. Also, Stuttgart agreed to build three new duplexes (six apartments) at Robinson Barracks and three single homes at Kelley Barracks," said James Grady, the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Directorate of Public Works deputy director.

"As soon as the alternate constructions are finalized by the State Construction Office, the U.S. Forces will return the five remaining officer houses on the western side of Roter Stich," Grady added.

In July 2008, the agency for urban development and residential areas in Stuttgart, the Stuttgarter Wohnungs- und Städtebaugesellschaft (SWSG), purchased the western part of Roter Stich for €8 million from the federal government. The plan is to build a new residential area with approximately 200 housing units.

"The current area plan includes the construction of 61 rental apartments, 100 privately owned apartments, and 35 single homes, including row and duplex houses, as well as a day care center," said Stephanie Ahr, spokesperson for SWSG.

"Altogether, the SWSG is investing about €62 million in this project," Ahr said.

Construction is set to start in the spring of 2011.

"The SWSG anticipates finalizing the construction of the apartments by the end of 2012. The construction start for the houses depends on the U.S. Forces and when they are returning the rest of the area," Ahr said.

News & Notes

Graco recalls hazardous strollers

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with Graco Children's Products Inc., announced a voluntary recall of Graco's Passage, Alano and Spree Strollers and Travel Systems. The hinges on these strollers' canopies pose fingertip amputation and laceration hazards. Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled strollers and contact Graco to receive a free repair kit by calling 001-800-345-4109.

For more information, visit www.gracobaby.com or www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml10/10115.html.

Post office news

The U.S. Postal Service recently announced changes in pricing for mailing parcels. First Class letter prices remain the same, express prices are now higher, and priority parcel prices can be higher or lower, depending on how far the package travels from the east coast. For postage rates, visit www.usps.com.

In U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, the Panzer and Kelley Army Post Offices now have extended hours; they are open five days a week from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For families stationed overseas with a sponsor, the sponsor needs to ensure that the garrison postal service registers all dependents during in-processing for a mail box. Otherwise, the postal service will not find the name(s) of the sponsor's dependents in the directory, and their mail will be returned.

Abandoned vehicles to be destroyed

Are you missing a vehicle?

Vehicles in the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart abandoned vehicle lot are set to be destroyed within the next 45 days. A list of vehicles is available on the garrison Web site at www.stuttgart.army.mil.

To claim a vehicle, call the USAG Stuttgart Provost Marshal's office at 431-5001/civ. 0711-680-5001.

Tech expo comes to Patch

More than 30 exhibitors will demonstrate the latest in telecommunications, satellite communications, disaster recovery, green information technology products and more at the winter Patch Barracks/Stuttgart Area Technology Exposition Feb. 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Swabian Special Events Center.

This event, hosted by U.S. European Command and the Stuttgart Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association Chapter, is open to all military, civilian, and contractor personnel.

For more information, contact Mindy Sartori at Sartori@ncsi.com

Submit AFAP issues

Do you have an idea to make life better in USAG Stuttgart? Pick up an issue form around base or fill one out online at www.stuttgartmwr.com and let garrison leadership know about your idea for change in time for the 2010 Army Family Action Plan conference Feb. 25-26. The deadline for submissions is Feb. 5. For more information, call 431-3643/civ. 07031-15-3362.

Ask a JAG

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

By Capt. Aaron L. Lancaster (U.S. Army)
Stuttgart Law Center

Q: I read your last article and saw that the Stuttgart Law Center has a free tax preparation service for service members, Department of Defense civilians and their dependents. I have always done my own taxes. Is there any reason that I should have my taxes done by the Law Center?

A: Many people feel similar to you when it comes to their taxes. Unfortunately, in addition to the higher rate of error for self-prepared returns, many of these people are missing out on getting money back from the Internal Revenue Service that they are entitled to through various tax credits.

Some of the credits are "refundable" credits, meaning that if you were eligible for the credit, you could be entitled to receive more money back than the amount you paid in taxes for the year. A few credits that people often overlook are the American Opportunity Credit, the Lifetime Learning Credit, the Retirement Savings Contributions Credit, and the Child Tax Credit.

The AOC and the LLC are both educational credits, but they offer different benefits to tax payers. The AOC offers the taxpayer up to \$2,500 per eligible student during their first four years of a post-secondary degree program.

The LLC, on the other hand, offers taxpayers up to \$2,000 per return and can be used for all years of post-secondary education, even if the student is not pursuing a degree. For any given tax year, the taxpayer can only claim either the AOC or the LLC (not both) and the taxpayer will need to determine whether the parent or child can claim the credit.

The Retirement Savings Contributions Credit provides a potential tax credit to those that make a contribution to an IRA or other qualified plan. Thrift Savings Plan contributions qualify. If you qualify, you could get anywhere from 10 to 50 percent of your contribution credited back.

The Child Tax Credit could net taxpayers up to \$1,000 in credit for each qualifying child. As long as the child is under the age of 17, does not provide at least half of their own support, has lived with with the taxpayer/provider for more than half of the year, and is either a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or resident of the U.S., then the taxpayer will be eligible to claim the CTC. The Additional Child Tax Credit also becomes a refundable tax credit in certain circumstances.

These are only four of the many potential credits available. Eligible individuals who come to the Law Center will have their taxes prepared by IRS- and Army-trained tax preparers. The phone number for the Tax Center is 421-4588/civ. 0711-729-4588 and the Tax Center will be open full-time beginning Feb. 1.

This column is not intended as individual or specific legal advice. If you have specific issues or concerns, you should consult a judge

Construction

Continued from page 1

saving motion detector that turns the temperature to a predetermined setting after an hour of no activity in the room, or when a window is tipped open, Roach said.

The Panzer Hotel is the first in USAG Stuttgart to be fully air-conditioned, and to meet 100 percent of the new Army lodging standards, he added.

The new hotel will allow the Hilltop Hotel on Robinson Barracks to close in June and the Swabian Inn on Patch Barracks to close shortly after the the Panzer Hotel opens, Roach said.

Even so, more newcomers to the garrison will have the option of on-post lodging, he added.

"This [hotel] will help bring folks in from German hotels, right here to base," Roach said.

Once the construction fence is lowered, the hotel will be accessible from a pedestrian bridge running from Haarde Street (in front of the chapel) to the hotel's third floor, and by the road in front of the Panzer Main Exchange. This road will connect to the hotel's main entrance and parking lot.

Besides offering a variety of rooms, the hotel will also offer close to 65 jobs for hotel staff, Roach said.

When the staff and furnishings are in place, Roach will take his place as the Panzer Hotel manager. For now, however, he's simply enjoying the process.

"I'm most proud of the fact that I've been on this project since it was conceived," he said. "Since 2005, we've submitted paperwork and seen it go from concept to paper to concrete. Doing all the planning, getting it rolling, then watching the building come up: that's the fun part."

Kelley Shoppette

Construction on the new Kelley Shoppette began in July 2009, and is scheduled to be finished in the beginning of February, said Mehretab Goitom, the DPW project manager for the shoppette.

The \$750,000 project is funded by U.S. Africa Command and the Stuttgart Army and Air Force Exchange Service. DPW and SHBA also manage this project.

It will replace the old shoppette in Building 3312, across from the Subway restaurant, in order to offer added convenience to patrons on Kelley in its new location: next to the gas station.

The facility is expected to be ready for shoppers at the ribbon cutting ceremony in early March. Once

completed, the shoppette will contain 2,800 square feet of basic groceries, car care necessities and convenience items, including a "snack avenue" containing more on-the-go food options, said Frank Niccoll, AAFES general manager.

The small "island shack" that currently controls the gas pumps will be shut down, and the shoppette will take over gas operations, Niccoll added. When complete, the Kelley Shoppette will be open Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Kelley CDC

Construction on the new \$5 million Kelley Barracks Child Development Center began in July 2009, and is scheduled to finish this June, Seare said. The CDC project, also managed by DPW, the Corps of Engineers and SHBA, is one of four new CDCs currently being constructed in U.S. Army Europe.

Once in operation, the center will accommodate approximately 100 children up to 5 years old.

The CDC's building plan is also ADA-compliant (for full handicap accessibility) and environmentally friendly, with a solar water heater and several trees nearby to provide natural shade.

"We went out of our way to make sure we kept as many trees around the building as possible," Seare said.

However, the CDC's most admired feature from the children's point of view is the new outdoor playground, Seare said.

"We've had some parents standing outside, with their kids saying: 'Mommy, when do I get to go in?'" he added.



The Kelley Shoppette is set to open in early March.



The Kelley Barracks Child Development Center, set to be completed in June, will accommodate approximately 100 children up to 5 years old. It is one of four new CDCs being constructing in U.S. Army Europe.



[Above] Maj. Gen. John W. Morgan III speaks on the importance of serving others during the USAG Stuttgart Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration Jan. 12. [Right] Members of the Martin Luther King Community Choir raise their voices in song.



EUCOM's Lt. Col. Julius Washington, serves chicken wings to Abby Dolinger following the MLK celebration. The food was named after service qualities, such as "Joy Wings."



Lt. Col. Henry "Hank" Young Jr., EUCOM J4 deputy division chief, military secretariat, reads an excerpt from Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech, "The Drum Major Instinct," during the community celebration on Jan. 12.

MLK Jr. Day inspires community to serve

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

Forty-one years ago, a man had a dream that different kinds of people could live together in peace.

On Jan. 12, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart community members honored

The most rewarding thing about this is people leave inspired. It's a new year. People are looking for direction and service is something we all should be doing.

Lt. Col. Cail Morris Jr.
EUCOM J6, volunteer cook

this man not only by remembering his life, but by living out his dream.

The annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day observance, hosted by the garrison Equal Opportunity Office, was packed. In fact, at about 250 attendees, it was the largest turnout in the history of the event, according to Col. Richard M. Pastore, garrison commander.

"It's very heartening to see such a diverse group of community members, young and old, of all races and creeds, come to honor a man who made such an impact on our history," said Tanya Young, a military spouse. "This was Dr. King's dream."

King also dreamed of a community that thrived because people served one another, a message that guest speaker Maj. Gen. John W. Morgan III expounded on.

"Each and every one of us has the capacity and the opportunity to share with one another through our service," said Morgan, the chief of staff for U.S. European Command. "We can't individually change the world, but part of the world changes wherever we are, whenever we serve."

Morgan challenged garrison community members to put that belief into practice by volunteering in their local neighborhoods, something that they did well in 2009.

Approximately 137,000 service hours were donated to last year by volunteers, according to Army Community Service, saving the community close to \$2 million.

However, 2010 is a new year, Morgan added. "I would argue that King's message and his dream is to serve every day."

Adding to Morgan's message, the Martin Luther King Community Choir performed a variety of gospel-style songs on service and perseverance, which had audience members nodding their heads to the music.

"The choir really sets the tone for how you feel," said Col. Mario LePaix, chief of staff for U.S. Marine Corps Forces Africa. "It really made me think about what I've been doing for the last 30 years," he added, referring to his three decades of service in the military.

In another part of the observance, Lt. Col. Henry "Hank" Young Jr., the EU-

COM J4 deputy division chief, military secretariat, read an excerpt from King's speech, "The Drum Major Instinct."

"I think I got a little teary," said Lt. Col. William Robinson, assigned to EUCOM J6 who met King in the 1960s. "There was electricity in the atmosphere."

King's speech described how every person wants to feel important, but the most important thing they can do is serve others.

Several members of EUCOM, Defense Information Systems Agency, U.S. Africa Command and other tenant units took this very literally by cooking and serving food following the event, which included "Joy Wings," and "Peaceful Prime Rib."

"It's truly all about service, not about being in the limelight," said Lt. Col. Cail Morris Jr., one of the cooks who, when he isn't working for EUCOM J6, volunteers with a men's integrity group at his church. "The most rewarding thing about this is people leave inspired. It's a new year. People are looking for direction [and] service is something we all should be doing."

SOCEUR celebrates 55 years of operations

By Master Sgt. Donald Sparks

Special Operations Command Public Affairs Office

On a day when many of their counterparts are deployed and engaged in missions only known by few others, the service members of the U.S. Special Operations Command Europe paused for a moment to celebrate history.

SOCEUR personnel have played significant roles in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and currently support the operation.



Courtesy of Special Operations Command

The unit held a small observance Jan. 21 in the Patch Movie Theater on the eve of its establishment to celebrate 55 years of existence. Maj. Gen. Frank Kisner, SOCEUR commander, praised the men and women in uniform for their extraordinary efforts in support of the Special Operations personnel deployed throughout its area of responsibility.

From its origins consisting of only 14 personnel, SOCEUR today is comprised of 250 service members representing the Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force.

"We are the '250,'" Kisner said, referencing a slide depicting the 300 Spartans who fought to protect the invasion of Greece. "We represent the fight today to protect the principles of democracy."

Kisner also compared the organization to a photo of a cheetah.

"The cheetah is the symbol for Special Operations," he said. "It has incredible ability to be agile, flexible and deadly. It has incredible speed and is adaptive. So we must be the same as the cheetah to react to asymmetrical threats on a global basis."

SOCEUR was formed when U.S. European Command's commander-in-chief established Support Operations Command Europe in Paris to provide peacetime planning and operational control of special

operations forces conducting unconventional warfare in the European Command area of responsibility.

Later in 1955, the command was redesignated as Support Operations Task Force Europe. In 1967, based on France's withdrawal from NATO, the command relocated from Paris to Panzer Kaserne near Stuttgart to better facilitate interaction with European Command.

One year later, the command relocated five miles down the road to its current location on Patch Barracks. Then, on November 1, 1983, the command assumed its current designation as Special Operations Command Europe.

SOCEUR's operational focus during the '70s and '80s was greatly influenced by operations in Vietnam, the post-war defense budget drawdown, and Cold-War engagement.

With the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1990 and the disestablishment of the Warsaw Pact in 1991, the command redirected its focus.

SOCEUR and its components have since planned and executed special operations during Operations Desert Storm, Provide Comfort and Provide Comfort II.

In addition, the command has executed many operations not as publicly well known, such as Silver Anvil in Sierra Leone, Atlas Response in Mozambique, Assured Response and Shadow Express in Liberia, and Firm Response in the Congo.

In the Balkans, SOCEUR forces participated in Joint Endeavor, Joint Guard and Joint Forge, as well as both Joint Guardian and Allied Force in Kosovo. Currently, SOCEUR forces contribute to both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Kisner took part in a cake-cutting with Marine Sgt. Derek Jenson, the most junior service member of the command. For Jenson, who is serving in his first joint assignment, the event gave him a historical perspective of SOCEUR.

"It's very interesting to see how we do things differently within special operations," said Jenson, a native of Sturgis, S.D. "Being assigned to SOCEUR has expanded my overall picture of the military, and made me appreciate how all services contribute to the fight."



Courtesy of Special Operations Command

SOCEUR aviation capabilities were used in support of Operation Atlas Response, a multinational effort to provide humanitarian relief to Mozambique, Africa, in 2000.



Courtesy of Special Operations Command

Following a coup that overthrew the president of Sierra Leone, SOCEUR personnel evacuated more than 400 people from the African country.

Job Fair

Continued from page 1

he said.

There are 176 Soldiers assigned to the Warrior Transition Battalion in Europe spread across 13 locations, according to Gina Starrett, the USAG Stuttgart Soldier and Family Assistance Center program manager. Approximately 72 of these Soldiers, along with their families, attended the three-day job fair.

"The challenge in Europe is that Soldiers don't always have access to the number and variety of support programs like they do stateside, and they don't have a lot of time," Starrett said.

She said after a medical board, a Soldier may have up to 90 days before separation.

"That can be a shock, especially

when you have to move your vehicles and household back home, plus consider taking leave. It's a unique challenge," Starrett said.

"We want [these Soldiers] to serve the civilian sector as successfully as they did in the military," said Ruby Crockrell, a physical evaluation board liaison officer with the Kaiserslautern Warrior Transition Unit.

Crockrell said the transition back to civilian life can be frightening for some. "If you've been in the Army for eight years, you are attached. To know you have to leave — there are many insecurities and fears."

Crockrell reflected on the Soldiers' progress. "When they came to us, many couldn't walk. Some were flat on their backs. This is, indeed, a day of victory," she said.



Susan Huseman

Spc. Son Yong Kuykendall, left, assigned to the Kaiserslautern WTU, speaks with General Dynamic's Dee Dunn at the AUSA Job Fair Jan. 15.

National Prayer Breakfast set

The National Prayer Breakfast will be held Feb. 9 at 7 a.m. in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks.

This year's guest speaker will be Ron Archer, a pastor, best-selling author, award-winning speaker and international business strategist.

Tickets are available at chaplains' offices on Panzer Kaserne (431-3079/civ. 07031-15-3079), Patch Barracks (430-9213/civ. 0711-680-9213) and Robinson Barracks (420-6124/civ. 0711-819-6124).

Visit the community flea market

The next USAG Stuttgart Community Flea Market will be held Feb. 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Patch Community Club.

To sign up to sell your wares, or for additional information, call 430-2110/civ. 0711-680-2110 or 0774-248-9940.

Skate for free

The Stuttgart Military Community Eishockey club and the Stuttgart Community Spouses Club host free family skate nights Feb. 27 and March 13 at 5:15 p.m. in the Wernau Eisstadion, Stadionweg 12, 73249 Wernau.

While there is no charge to skate, skates can be rented for €4.50.

Learn about Army Emergency Relief

Army Community Service will host a series of workshops on the Army Emergency Relief Commander's Referral Program.

Classes for commanders and first sergeants will be held in Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne from 10-11:30 a.m. Feb. 2, May 4 and Aug. 3.

Community members give blood



Brittany Carlson

Joseph Lloren, civilian, donates blood as part of the Armed Services Blood Program blood drive Jan. 19 at the Kelley Fitness Center. The two-day drive gained 24 pints of blood.

For more information, call 431-2085/civ. 07031-15-2085.

Take postal survey for chance to win

Installation Management Command-Europe wants to know how well local Postal Service Centers are serving their customers.

Earn a chance to win a five-night vacation at Edelweiss Resort in Garmisch by completing an online survey at www.milmail.org.

The deadline to complete the survey is Feb. 15.

ASYMCA holds children's art contest

The annual Armed Services YMCA Art Contest 2010 is now open to entries postmarked by Feb. 19.

Children of active duty or retired service members in grades kindergarten through six can submit artwork depicting their military family in this year's contest theme, "My Military Family."

The winners will receive U.S. Savings Bonds.

For entry forms, visit www.asymca.org.

Run a marathon

Ever wanted to run a marathon? Learn how in the Patch Fitness Center's "School of Marathon."

Participants must register at the fitness center for this 12-16 week program and attend at least one initial meeting (or make special arrangements) to complete the school. The last meeting will be held Feb. 9 at 5 p.m.

The deadline to register is Feb. 15.

For more information, call 4310-7136/civ. 0711-680-7136.

Dental clinic to visit schools

February is Dental Awareness Month and the Stuttgart Dental Clinic will visit local schools next month to provide dental screenings and education. The clinic schedule is as follows:

- Robinson Barracks Feb. 10
- Panzer Kaserne Feb. 17 and 22
- Patch Barracks Feb. 19 and 24

Forum provides FAFSA help

U.S. Africa Command will host a financial educational forum for high school and college students Feb. 7 at 1:30 p.m. in the Patch Theater on Patch Barracks.

This forum features a workshop on applying for student aid, a state residency briefing and assistance with building a portfolio.

For more information, call 421-4783/civ. 0711-729-4783.

Community banks open later Feb. 4

The Patch Community Bank will open at 9:30 a.m.,

and the Panzer, Robinson Barracks and Kelley Community Banks will open at 10 a.m. on Feb. 4 because of a mandatory meeting.

Audition for children's play

Children ages 8-17 are needed for the upcoming children's play at Kelley Theatre: "Patchwork," by Carol Lauck. Auditions will be held Feb. 16-17 at 4 p.m. in the Kelley Theatre.

The show, directed by Barb Heidt, will be performed March 26 and April 2 at 7:30 p.m. and March 27 and April 3 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

For a perusal script, stop by the Kelley Theatre.

For more information, call 421-3258/civ. 0711-729-3258.

Cats wanted for feline fun show

The second annual Feline Fun Show will be held Feb. 27 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Patch Community Club.

Owners can sign their cats up to participate Feb. 1-23 at the Patch Fitness Center or Panzer Vet Clinic.

All vaccinations must be current. For more information, call 430-7136/civ. 0711-680-7136.

Visit Superbowl Sunday craft sale

The Patch Multi-Crafts Center will host a Superbowl Sunday sale Feb. 7 from 1-5 p.m., followed by crafts time from 5-9 p.m.

Everything in the store will be 20 percent off.

For more information, call 430-5270/civ. 0711-680-5270.

See more community photos at www.flickr.com/photos/usagstuttgart/

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Robinson Barracks gets infused with new life

By Susan Huseman
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Twenty years ago, Robinson Barracks was the crown jewel of what was dubbed the Greater Stuttgart Military Community — 17 caserns dotted across an area the size of Rhode Island, with more than 32,000 personnel.

Back then, 4,000 Soldiers and civilians worked on Robinson Barracks. More than 675 families lived there.

And, when Americans in Germany wanted to go shopping, they headed to RB's PX, the largest in Europe.

That was then.

Over time, a chunk of RB's real estate was returned to the Germans, and the installation dwindled down to a quiet bedroom community. But in the past two and one-half years, thanks to an influx of U.S. Africa Command personnel, the community is coming alive again.

"The garrison and the [combatant commands], EUCOM and AFRICOM, have worked very hard together to revitalize what was just two years ago 'Sleepy Hollow,'" said Col. Richard M. Pastore, the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart commander, at his first-ever Robinson Barracks town hall meeting Jan. 13.

More than \$100 million has been spent on family housing renovations, which include amenities such as wall-to-wall carpeting, master bedroom walk-in closets and laundry facilities in each apartment.

There are 100 housing units now under renovation, with an additional \$4.6 million earmarked for future renovations. "Every stairwell unit has been or will be renovated," Pastore said.

“The garrison and the [combatant commands] ... have worked very hard together to revitalize what was just two years ago 'Sleepy Hollow.'”

Col. Richard M. Pastore
USAG Stuttgart commander

Today, 280 families call Robinson Barracks home. Over the next 18 months, the population is projected to increase to 470 families.

RB residents have their own fitness center, elementary and middle school, library, post office, mail room, beauty shop, Child and Youth Services School Age Services and a hybrid "CX," a combined commissary and post exchange.

Recent additions include a barber shop, a Community Bank branch office, and a doner kebab and rotisserie chicken stand inside the CX.

To support RB's growing population, the USAG Stuttgart Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation just opened a community club with a restaurant and lounge.

"We want the club to be a place where people who live here can gather to watch sports, have fun, eat a meal

[and] watch a movie," said Pastore. With that in mind, the facility features a small theater, large screen TVs and meeting area. A coffee bar is set to open soon.

The garrison will spend \$9 million over the next two years on infrastructure repairs: replacing playground equipment, installing air conditioning in the SAS building and repairing the sidewalks and roads.

The Robinson Barracks chapel will also undergo renovations.

"With the growth of the community, our religious support activities have grown exponentially. We've tried to keep pace with it," Pastore said. "We have a tremendous amount of programs and activities for RB residents."

Robinson Barracks is now fully enclosed by fencing. To make the surrounding German neighborhood, shops and buses more accessible by foot, the garrison is looking to install enhanced security pedestrian gates at several locations. "It's going to happen as quickly as we can make it happen," Pastore said.

RB residents enjoy the best of both worlds: the convenience and security of living in a military community and the intimacy of a German neighborhood, according to Andrea Aitken. "We really feel like we're living in Germany," said Aitken, a two-year RB resident.

Aitken is especially excited about what the new club brings to the community. "People are having promotion parties, going for cake on Sunday, enjoying brunch, grabbing dinner on a weeknight or stopping in for a beer," she said.

She encourages others in the Stuttgart military community to visit the club. "Come out for Sunday brunch. The food is great and the atmosphere is nice.

"It is worth the drive," she added.



Kristie Smith, left, and Courtney Mitchell shop for bargains at the RB Thrift Shop.



Gene Hudgens, right, and his wife, Christl, left, managers of the Robinson Barracks Thrift Shop, wait on customers Robert and Kerrie Baldi Jan. 16

Robinson Barracks thrift shop patrons bid 'Auf Wiedersehen' to longtime managers

Story & photos by Susan Huseman
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

With every item in the Robinson Barracks Thrift Shop marked down 50 percent, housewares, toys and knickknacks flew off the shelves last weekend.

While ringing up sales, Christl Hudgens, shop manager, made sure almost every customer walked away with at least one thing free of charge — a hug.

Although the discounted prices have to do with the thrift shop's upcoming change of management, the hugs are simply a part of who Hudgens is.

"When you're out shopping, you don't get a hug at very many places," said Kerri Baldi, who was at the thrift shop on a recent Saturday. "You get one when you come here."

She also gets quality. "You can come here, buy something, and you know it's going to last," Baldi said. "We bought a fridge, an air conditioner and a freezer. Everything still works."

Hudgens, a German national, and husband Gene, a retired Army sergeant major, have managed the shop together since 1993. They are set to retire at the end of February, when the shop comes under the oversight of the Stuttgart Community Spouses Club.

Fans of both the thrift shop and its managers are saddened. "They're such a fixture," Kelly Perez said of the couple, whom she met while living in temporary housing on RB. "Germany is intimidating at first. [Gene and Christl] made us feel very welcome.

"We didn't have a car and were too scared to venture out on foot. [Christl] encouraged us to go out and use our broken German," said Perez. "It was like having German grandparents in your backyard."

Perez isn't the only one who sees the Hudgenses as grandparents.

"We call them 'Grandma and Grandpa Thrift Store,'" said Kristie Smith, as she loaded up her car with bargains such as a brand new pair of basketball shoes for \$4. "They're like family. I'm very sad that I probably won't see them again."

Besides being friendly, the Hudgenses are also kindhearted.

"I've seen them help many people who can't afford to buy things," said Tonya Coleman, who met the couple when she came

“When you're out shopping, you don't get a hug at very many places. You get one when you come here.”

Kerri Baldi
Robinson Barracks Thrift Shop customer

to Stuttgart almost two years ago.

"I don't think there is one person who has gone to the thrift shop whom they have not left an impression on," she added.

Coleman is so sincere in her sentiments she even took her daughters out of school early one day so they could say goodbye to the couple.

"They are who I want to remember when I leave here," she said.

Gene, 74, chalks up such affection to his wife of 44 years. "People come to see us because they love to talk to Christl," he said.

Many of their former customers have faithfully stayed in contact, he added. "We have people who have moved away, for example, to Garmisch, and when they come through Stuttgart, they stop at the thrift shop to see if we're still here."

The relationships are a by-product of doing what one loves, according to Christl.

"Our goal was to serve the people, and to help young Soldiers and their families. I think we achieved that. It makes us feel good, and our customers feel good, too," she said.

The Robinson Barracks Thrift Shop is open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Feb. 20. All items are marked down 50 percent. Customers are encouraged to clear their accounts by Feb. 1.

After Feb. 20, the thrift shop will close temporarily for facility renovations and restocking. It is set to re-open April 1 under the management of the Stuttgart Community Spouses Club.



Photo illustration

This photo illustration depicts a section of Robinson Barracks. During the installation's heyday in the '80s, more than 4,000 Soldiers and civilians worked on Robinson Barracks.

EUCOM selects top enlisted, civilians of the year

Story & photos by
Tech. Sgt. Rob Hazelett

European Command Public Affairs

U.S. European Command recognized its outstanding performers for 2009 during a service member and civilian of the year ceremony Jan. 20 at the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks.

"Those sitting here have been singled out from all the enlisted and civilian workforce," Army Lt. Gen. Jack Gardner, EUCOM deputy commander, told the 37 nominees.

"All of you here today should be very proud of that," he added. "Most amazing, I think, is with your talent and potential, you could be doing anything you want ... and I think it's very fortunate that we have your level of talent in our organization."

Junior Service Member

Senior Airman Amanda Bell, as-

signed to EUCOM's Joint Analysis Center, Royal Air Force Molesworth, United Kingdom, is the Junior Service Member of the Year.

Bell serves in the Geospatial-Intelligence Collection Division and was selected by her division chief to be the division representative at 65 national agency meetings.

Among her other achievements, she developed a Black Sea maritime collection strategy and monitored naval deployments impacting U.S. interests.

NCO/PO

Intelligence Specialist Second Class Mary Grodecki, assigned to EUCOM's Joint Intelligence Operations Center-Europe Analytic Center, Intelligence Directorate, Counterterrorism Division, RAF Molesworth, U.K., is the Non-commissioned Officer/Petty Officer of the Year.

Grodecki produced more than 5,000 links to terrorist databases that directly enabled world-wide counterterrorism

operations. She was also a lead disseminator for information from national-level intelligence systems, which keeps senior theater leaders informed.

Senior NCO/PO

Master Sgt. Philip Hudson, Command, Control, Communication Systems and Warfighting Integration (ECJ6), is the Senior NCO/PO of the Year.

Hudson directed C4 operations in a 51-nation theater and responded to 732 outages, 243 service interruptions and 78 network intrusions.

He also developed the Headquarters U.S. Africa Command Continuity of Operations Plan, which utilized existing space and computer systems that enabled contingency operations. He was elected the Stuttgart Area Top-3 president, led 87 senior NCOs and bolstered community and professional development.

Junior Civilian

Timothy King, ECJ6, is the Junior Civilian of the Year.

The office automation technician volunteered to be the ECJ6 directorate timekeeper, and personally trained more than 40 Army civilians, as he led the transition to the Automated Time Attendance and Production System.

In addition, he trained six administrative assistants on ECJ6 internal staff procedures.

Mid-Level Civilian

David Gouin, Strategy, Policy and Assessments Directorate (ECJ5/8), is the Mid-Level Civilian of the Year.

As a program analyst, he managed \$6 million from last year's Military to Military program funding and provided support to thousands of customers. As vacancies laid the workload of two civilian positions on him, he worked 60 short-notice M2M events over a 10-week period and worked 20 additional hours per week.

Gouin also conceived and wrote a comprehensive standard operating procedure and M2M continuity handbook, which serves as a training tool for new personnel.

Senior Civilian

Joe Puckett, ECJ5/8, is the Senior Civilian of the Year.

As an operations research analyst, he flawlessly organized and executed the first-ever EUCOM Strategy to Resources Conference. Puckett ensured the six-country campaign plans were resourced for the first time.

In addition, he spearheaded a 90-percent reduction in Lines of Activity for the European Strategy Conference, and eliminated extensive duplication of effort in resourcing EUCOM strategy. He also developed a matrices tool to show links between priorities and objectives, and available resources.



Timothy King, Command, Control, Communication Systems and Warfighting Integration (ECJ6), Junior Civilian of the Year, has a discussion with a co-worker Jan. 21.



Master Sgt. Philip Hudson, Command, Control, Communication Systems and Warfighting Integration (ECJ6), Senior Noncommissioned Officer/Petty Officer of the Year, talks to a subordinate Jan. 21.

Army iPhone download among top 25 free news apps

C. Todd Lopez

Army News Service

Soldiers and others can now read the latest Army news on their iPhones, thanks to a new application created by the team that developed the Army's Web site, www.army.mil.

The new iPhone application was launched in December, and is available for free from the iTunes application store or by visiting the Army.mil mobile site.

"The Army developed the iPhone application to put U.S. Army stories, images and videos in the hand of users," said Patricia Downs, deputy director of the Army's Online and Social Media Division.

"It allows Soldiers and their family

members to save their favorite content and to share it over Facebook, Twitter and e-mail. The application also offers several entertainment and informational sections," she added.

The application provides users the latest Army news headlines from around the globe, and allows readers to choose which news feeds they want to receive, including those from Europe, Asia, Africa and the Pacific, as well as news concerning health issues, Army science and technology, the Army National Guard and Army Reserve and news headlines from the Army News Service in Washington, D.C.

Also available on the iPhone is the daily "Stand-To!" This is a daily compendium of news, information and context for Army leaders. In addition, a

complete archive of Soldiers magazine, as far back as 2002, is available through the iPhone application.

The iPhone's wide screen and multimedia capabilities don't go to waste just reading text either. The new application provides access to both Army video and still imagery, including content hosted on the Army's Flickr feed and YouTube page. For those who want to relive the greatest moments of Soldiers Radio News, podcasts of the show are also available through the application.

Social media is at the heart of the new Army.mil, which was revealed in early December. The emphasis on social media carries over to the Army's portable application as well.

The application also serves as a digital pocket almanac and includes informa-

tion about Army uniforms, military rank, Army weapons systems and even the words and music for the Army song.

For those interested enough in the Army to have the application on their iPhone, but not yet wearing the uniform, the new application can even help users find a local recruiter.

"I would have to say that the most exciting feature offered on the Army app is the 'Find A Recruiter' section," Downs said. "Just enter your zip code in the app and it will then bring up a recruiting station in your area instantaneously. It's as simple as that."

Since the application's launch in late December, it has been downloaded more than 20,000 times, and remains in the top 25 of free news applications, Downs said.

Stuttgart's modern art museum plays on senses

By Brittany Carlson

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

What makes a work of art?

The question has a history of debate, but at Stuttgart's modern art museum, the better question to ask might be: "What doesn't?"

The Kunstmuseum Stuttgart, known for its glass cube jutting over the Königstrasse in downtown Stuttgart, features artwork made from a shag carpet, beeswax, meat, cheese and red cabbage, along with the traditional mediums.

"What was important from the beginning on was that this museum was a sensual place," said Sandy Stoll, public relations specialist for the museum.

This must still be the case for the museum's new director, Dr. Ulrike Groos, who assumed the position Jan. 1, since the museum plans to show a "Simply Video" exhibit May 8 to Aug. 22 and an "Eat Art" exhibit made from food items beginning Sept. 18.

Visitors to the Kunstmuseum Stuttgart can do more than look at the art here; they can also smell, listen and touch some of it.

One exhibit includes tables covered with multi-colored pamphlets. Visitors can flip the pamphlets' pages — with gloves on — to change each booklet's color, and change the art.

"It is a very psychological piece of work," Stoll said.

Artists showcased here range from Swabian impressionists at the end of the 18th century to "Frischzelle" (Fresh Cell) artists: new artists seeking recognition. The museum houses approximately 15,000 works of art,



Brittany Carlson

The Kunstmuseum Stuttgart is known for its modern "cube" architecture, but the "cube" houses only a small section of the vast collection.

Stoll said.

In fact, the museum's glass cube is only one small section of the entire museum, which stretches below street level and includes six floors of artwork, both in permanent and temporary exhibits. The museum moved into the current building in 2005, but the collection was founded long before, in 1924.

The museum's history has provided it with a varied permanent collection, including some of the most significant works by Otto Dix, a local artist who painted the three-panel triptych "Grossstadt," showing the post World War I social life in Germany, and the "Bildnis der Tänzerin Anita Berber," a portrait of a dancer almost completely painted in shades of red.

Also featured in the permanent ex-

hibits is Dieter Roth, the artist behind the meat and cheese works. Roth also created "Gartenzweig," a garden gnome peeking out of a log of chocolate.

In addition to these exhibits, the museum hosts three temporary exhibits per year. The current exhibit, from now through April 11, features the works of photographer Elger Esser.

Esser's work includes a rare technique which uses ink-coated copper plates to make a print. It is designed to create a sense of *deja vu* in its viewers. "It's very peaceful, very quiet," Stoll said. "It looks familiar."

Besides art, the museum also has a coffee bar on the ground floor and an upscale restaurant on the top level, completely paneled in glass, with a view of the Schlossplatz below.



Courtesy of the Kunstmuseum Stuttgart
"Bildnis der Tänzerin Anita Berber," a portrait of a dancer, is one of many Otto Dix art pieces in the Kunstmuseum.

The Kunstmuseum also provides a "Drop and Shop" program for parents, who can drop off their children on Saturday from 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. for an afternoon of art projects, so that they can shop elsewhere. Other programs include "Family Day" on Sunday, "Grandparents' Day" once a month and the weekly "crumpled paper" art club.

For more information, visit www.kunstmuseum-stuttgart.de. To schedule a tour in English, call 0711-216-1981.

Fasching festivals encourage foolish behavior, fun in streets

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Thought there were only four seasons in a year? Think again. It might last just six days, but Carnival is considered a fifth.

Here in Germany, it's called the Nürische Saison, or foolish season, and Germans revel in the chance to cut off their ties and cut loose.

Carnival week is the five-day festival before Lent. This year, the party begins Feb. 11 and lasts until Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 16.

Most scholars trace Carnival back to the first century Roman period when the festival of Saturnus began to take place. Saturn was the Roman God of Peace and Plenty, and the festival marked a time when order was turned upside down; men dressed as women and masters waited on their slaves.

Today, Carnival goes by many names, depending on where you choose to celebrate. Whether it's Karneval in Cologne, Fasching in Munich or the Swabian Fasnat, every region celebrates this season a little bit differently, but all have one goal in mind: to live it up before Lent.

In the south, parade revelers are called Narren, or fools. They dress in fanciful costumes, act silly and wear elaborate wooden masks in the image of witches and grotesque animals. Don't be surprised if one of

these Narren walk up to you and ruffle your hair or drop you a piece of candy.

The first local Fasching parade of the season will take to the streets in Tübingen Jan. 30 with more than 5,000 mask bearers. Fasching events actually start on Nov. 11, eleven minutes after the eleventh hour, but things really pick up speed during Carnival week.

The Tuesday before Lent is also known as "Schmutziger Donnerstag," or Dirty Thursday. The day ushers in this period of friendly disorder. In Cologne, for instance, women take control, chopping off the ties of their male colleagues. The Bad Cannstatt Dirty Thursday events include a Fasching market from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and a Fasching event at the Marktplatz starting at 6 p.m.

The streets of Bad Cannstatt will fill again on Feb. 15 at 10 a.m. for a musical performance at the old town hall, followed by a children's parade at 2 p.m.

Other local Fasching parades include those in Neuhausen/Fildern and Weil der Stadt on Feb. 14. Each year, the Weil der Stadt parade attracts thousands of visitors.

On Feb. 16, Stuttgart's downtown parade will start at 1 p.m. on the Schlossplatz, with more than 3,000 mask bearers winding their way down the Königstrasse.



U.S. Air Force photo/Matthew S. Bright

Two costumed parade participants, a mountain troll and a Bavarian milk maid, dance in the streets during the 2008 Wittlich Fasching Parade.

Soldiers make Team USA for winter Olympics

Story & photos by Tim Hipps

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command Public Affairs

Seven current and former members of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program have earned spots on Team USA for the XXI Olympic Winter Games, scheduled for Feb. 12-28 in Vancouver and Whistler, British Columbia, Canada.

Five current and former WCAP bobsledders, along with U.S. men's assistant bobsled coach Sgt. Bill Tavares, will tackle one of the world's fastest tracks in Whistler, the site of the bobsled competition Feb. 20-27.

WCAP biathlete Sgt. Jeremy Teela earned a spot on his third consecutive U.S. Olympic Team in the biathlon, a combination of cross-country ski racing and rifle shooting from standing and prone positions.

Four of the six U.S. men's and women's bobsled pilots learned the tricks of their trade while serving in the WCAP under the tutelage of five-time Olympian Tavares, who will assist U.S. men's bobsled head coach Brian Shimer.

WCAP Sgt. John Napier of Lake Placid, N.Y., will drive Team USA II's four-man sled. His WCAP teammate, 1st Lt. Chris Fogt of Alpine, Utah, will be among that crew, joined by Chuck Berkley of Clayton, Calif., and Steve Langton of Melrose, Mass.

Napier also will pilot USA II in the two-man competition with Langton aboard.

"Since my earliest memories, all I remember thinking about is this moment," Napier said, after being selected for the U.S. Olympic team. "It's a dream come true."

"This has just been a breakout season for John," Shimer said. "The world has been awakened and they are not looking over him. John was under the radar. His first statement was to let the world know he was here. Some of these guys were his idols, and now he's beating them down the hill."

Sgt. Mike Kohn, a member of the National Guard Outstanding Athlete Program, was one of Napier's boyhood



U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program biathlete Sgt. Jeremy Teela, a three-time Olympian, practices shooting last year. Teela will compete for Team USA at the XXI Olympic Winter Games in Canada Feb. 12-28.

idols. A former WCAP bobsledder, Kohn will drive Team USA III's four-man sled with the crew of Jamie Moriarty of Winnetka, Ill., Bill Schuffenhauer of Orem, Utah, and Nick Cunningham of Monterey, Calif.

Kohn capitalized on a career-ending concussion suffered by Todd Hays that opened the door for the National Guard athlete to qualify a third Olympic sled for Team USA. Only three nations were qualified to enter three men's sleds into the 2010 Olympics.

"This was one of the best experiences I've had in this sport," said Kohn, who won the 2002 Olympic bronze medal as a push athlete with Shimer, after he secured another Olympic berth at St. Moritz Jan. 16-17. "Winning an Olympic medal was amazing, but it doesn't compare to the team camaraderie felt over these last few weeks. The Olympics is about more than winning medals, and this experience is one I'll remember for the rest of my life."

"During the America's Cup races in Park City, Utah, I almost hung it up," Kohn added. "Todd was beating me, and I thought it would be impossible to qualify and I realized my Olympic dream as a driver wasn't going to happen. Then, all of a sudden, I was given another chance. It wasn't the

way I wanted to get another chance, but I was grateful for the opportunity. I can't thank Todd enough for his help and support over the last few weeks in helping our team. He's been a huge part of my success."

Kohn also will drive USA III in the two-man competition. His brakeman has not yet been determined.

Reigning four-man world champion Steven Holcomb, a former WCAP pilot from Park City, Utah, will drive the Team USA I sled, backed by Justin Olsen of San Antonio, Texas; Steve Mesler of Buffalo, N.Y.; and Curt Tomasevicz of Shelby, Neb.

Holcomb also will drive the USA I sled in two-man competition with Tomasevicz aboard.

On the women's side, former WCAP bobsledder Sgt. Shauna Rohbock of the Army National Guard Outstanding Athlete Program will pilot Team USA I. A 2006 Olympic silver medalist who teamed with Valerie Fleming in Torino, Italy, Rohbock, of Park City, Utah, will be joined by Michelle Rzepka of Novi, Mich., in America's top-rated women's sled.

Erin Pac of Farmington, Conn., and Elana Meyers of Douglasville, Ga., will compete in USA II. Bree Schaaf of Bremerton, Wash., and Emily Azevedo of Chico, Calif., will be in USA III.



Bobsledder Sgt. John Napier, seen here driving at the 2009 U.S. National Bobsled Championships in Lake Placid, N.Y., will compete at the XXI Olympic Winter Games.

Rohbock led the U.S. women with a fifth-place finish at a World Cup event Jan. 16 in St. Moritz, Switzerland.

Rohbock and Rzepka posted identical start times of 5.64 seconds and runs of 1:07.87 and 1:07.70 for a combined time of 2:15.57.

Only two nations were granted three sleds in the 2010 Olympic women's bobsled competition. Germany locked up the first spot earlier in the season based on points, but the second nation to qualify a third sled came down to a battle between Canadian Amanda Stepenko and U.S. pilot Schaaf, who secured her Olympic berth with two solid runs in St. Moritz.

"[The] race was won by only one-hundredth of a second," Rohbock said. "The competition is definitely picking up as we get closer to February. Every week is a challenge, and next month won't get any easier. I'm excited that we qualified three sleds, because I think all of us are competitive and have a chance to do well."

"I'm a little nervous going into the Olympics because I think the Germans are gaining momentum. Their push times are getting faster, they have aerodynamic sleds, and they will be tough to beat. But you never know what will happen at the Olympics. It's always unpredictable."



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I am in search of any information "Auto Accident". Happened Saturday 16 Jan 2010 on the A6 Vogelweh -Ramstein headed Westbound toward Saarbrucken. Occupant of vehicle hospitalized. Pls contact me with any information. Hawkeyesnooky88@yahoo.com

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Passport Outreach Day, February 24 2010. The U. S. Consulate, in coordination with Panzer passport office, will conduct a passport outreach day at the Patch Barracks Community Club on 24 February from 10 am until 2 pm. During this outreach the Consulate staff will process Report of birth applications by appointment only. Initial and renewal tourist passport applications will be processed for all walkins. The team will not process no fee/official passports. The Consulate staff will also be available to answer questions regarding social security and VA benefits, permanent residence, immigration and visa issues. Certain documents and forms will be required to apply for a passport. To make an appointment for your report of birth or for information and requirements, call DSN 431-2539, civ. 07031-15-2539.

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