

# THE CITIZEN

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U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

June 17, 2010

Serving the Greater Stuttgart Military Community

## Welcome home, 554th MPs!

By Larry Reilly

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Some 170 Wardawgs from the 554th Military Police Company quietly filed into the Panzer Kaserne Fitness Center on May 30, only to be overwhelmed by dozens of cheering and screaming families and friends.

It has been a year since the MPs left Stuttgart and deployed to Afghanistan, but by the applause they received at the gym, a passerby would get the impression the MPs had been gone much longer.

"It was truly a great feeling to see the Soldiers walk through the gym doors. It was like a heavy weight had just been lifted off my shoulders," said Sylvia Allen, who, accompanied by her two sons,

Vaun and Liam, quickly embraced her husband, Spc. Keith Allen. "Going through a 12-month deployment was not easy, especially with two children under the age of 5."

The Soldiers also faced difficulties and challenges as they endured long days, varying missions and separation, not only from their families, but often from each other.

"During the deployment, the 554th Military Police Company overcame many challenges, and oftentimes various elements of the company were geographically separated from each other," said Capt. Mark Schmidt, 554th Military Police Company commander. "Initially, we were all tasked

See 554th returns on page 4



Larry Reilly

After a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan, Soldiers from the 554th Military Police Company arrive at the Stuttgart Army Airfield May 30 and are welcomed by USAG Stuttgart leaders (from left) Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony M. Bryant and Col. Richard M. Pastore.



Markus Rauchenberger

Staff Sgt. Christopher McDougall, a USAG Stuttgart MP, uses a radio to perform a warrior task drill during the IMCOM-E NCO of the Year competition.

## Stuttgart NCO named best in IMCOM-Europe

By Brittany Carlson

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

For the fourth year running, a U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Soldier earned the top honor for all noncommissioned officers in Installation Management Command Europe.

Staff Sgt. Christopher McDougall, a military policeman, was named IMCOM-E NCO of the Year June 1, during the IMCOM-E Best Warrior Competition award ceremony in Heidelberg.

The ceremony followed the three-day competition, held May 2-5 in Grafenwöhr, which tested NCOs on battle-readiness and leadership skills, including physical fitness, weapons qualification and war-

See NCO of the Year on page 5

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### Congratulations, class of 2010!

Patch High School seniors bid farewell to their alma mater June 10 during a commencement ceremony at the Sindelfingen Stadthalle.



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### Who let those dogs out?

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, that's who! More than 80 pooches attended Bark in the Park on June 5.



INSIDE  
THIS  
EDITION

# Sponsorship: *Program connects Army Soldiers, families, civilians to community*

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

I have moved many times in my career, within the U.S. and overseas. I have deployed several times, leaving my wife to pull double duty at home. I know firsthand the good, the bad and the ugly of moving. Every move brings new opportunities, but also challenges and stress that can have a negative impact on work and home life.

We are approaching summer, the traditional moving season for the military. Most of us in an Army environment know what it is like to relocate. We know what a difference it makes to have a helping hand along the way.

Sponsors can be the determining factor between a good or bad move. An excellent sponsor plays a key role in making a positive first impression and helping the new person and family integrate into the unit, workplace and community.

During the past several years, the Army has been experiencing a high

*An excellent sponsor plays a key role in making a positive first impression and helping the new person and family integrate into the unit, workplace and community.*

volume of transition. Now more than ever, we need effective sponsorship to mitigate the stress of transition; however, Soldiers, civilians and families continue to express frustration with the Army's sponsorship program.

Sometimes our personnel and family members have an exceptional sponsor — someone who truly makes them feel welcome and gets them off to an excellent start — but that is not always the case. There may be sponsors who are not well-equipped or motivated to provide the needed assistance. Even worse, there may be no sponsorship at all.

I am taking this opportunity to improve on our Total Army Sponsorship Program. The TASP requires every first-term Soldier to have a sponsor.

The sponsor acts as a big brother or sister, and helps the Soldier learn Army standards and develop a sense of responsibility and teamwork.

After that initial assignment, TASP offers sponsors for every Soldier, private through colonel, and likewise for every civilian in grades up to GS-15. Soldiers, civilians and family members will have a sponsor to provide information and support before, during and after transitions, mobilizations and deployments.

One vital part of the sponsorship program that is often overlooked is that the rear detachment provides support to family members of deployed Soldiers and civilians.

Sponsors must understand their role and have the necessary informa-

tion and resources to fulfill it. Even more so, sponsors must be willing to reach out and make human contact, especially with new Soldiers, first-time civilian employees and family members who are unfamiliar with the Army way of life.

Above all, I want to ensure that commanders are invested in the success of the sponsorship program within their communities. It is leadership's responsibility to send the message that sponsorship is important and should be done right. At the most basic level, that means having an adequate pool of sponsors to meet the needs of the community and supporting those sponsors with reasonable time and resources.

We do not want Soldiers carrying unresolved issues from assignment to assignment. We do not want families failing to connect or disconnecting from their communities, especially if their Soldiers are deployed.

With a successful sponsorship program, we can treat every move as an opportunity to show that we will do right by Soldiers, civilians and families.

## THE CITIZEN

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## ON THE STREET: PHS SENIORS

### *What are your plans after graduation?*



**Sarah Martinez**

“University of Tampa, majoring in marine biology.”



**Claire Richardson**

“University of Texas San Antonio, majoring in communications.”



**Max Hall**

“[Stephen F. Austin State University] in Nacogdoches, Texas, undecided.”



**Chris Setter**

“Stony Brook University Long Island, chemical engineering, minor in photography.”



**Timi Huang**

“Johnson and Walker University in Denver, Colorado, major in business management.”



**Chris McVicker**

“Community college for two years, then to University of Georgia.”



**Baekyon Walicki**

“Going back to Korea, then to University of Seoul.”



**Brianna Heber**

“Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, the medical field.”



Larry Reilly

## Jewish memorial unveiled

*Benjamin Gelhorn, the last living survivor of the World War II-era Concentration Camp Echterdingen, leads a group past the "Ways to Remember" memorial wall June 8 with his escort, followed by Filderstadt's Lord Mayor Gabriele Doenig-Poppensieker, USAG Stuttgart Commander Col. Richard M. Pastore, Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony M. Bryant and others after the dedication ceremony of the Jewish memorial, which is located next to Stuttgart Army Airfield in Echterdingen. Some 119 Jewish detainees in the camp died during the winter of 1944/45. The memorial walls contain a sound system articulating the names of the 600 Jewish detainees of the concentration camp.*

## Customer input welcome at AAFES/DeCA council meetings

By Susan Huseman

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Commissary shoppers may have noticed more gluten-free products appearing on the Patch Commissary shelves. Or they may have grabbed a hand sanitizer wipe found at the entrances of all Stuttgart-area commissaries.

Both are results of customer input provided through the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Army and Air Force Exchange Service/Defense Commissary Agency quarterly council meetings.

"It's another way to include customers in the process of how we deliver our products and services," said Bernard Ellison, the Patch Commissary store director.

The meetings, held with garrison leadership, AAFES and DeCA officials in attendance, are by no means top secret. Anyone can attend.

"We're always happy to hear the comments from our customers so that we can meet their expectations and demands," Ellison said.

During the most recent council meeting held June 2, Ellison announced in the near future the Patch Commissary will receive a salad bar. "It will be a reasonably priced, self-service salad bar offering several different salad selections," he said.

The deli section will also undergo an expansion, which will provide more display space and a larger work area.

Meanwhile, contracted shops within the AAFES Shopping Mall on Panzer Kaserne, such as Käthe Wohlfahrt, are relocating to new spaces within the mall.

New shops and services are also being added — the most significant being a vision center.

According to Frank Niccoll, the Stuttgart AAFES general manager, a full service vision center will open in the fall. Authorized shoppers will be able to see an optometrist and order eye glasses "under one roof."

A women's clothing boutique offering European designs will also open.

Community members anticipating the re-opening of the Patch Food Court — closed for renovations since January — will have to wait until September.

According to Col. Richard M. Pastore, garrison commander, the project is being delayed for several reasons, one of which most Americans will appreciate: air conditioning.

Details such as these helps to keep community members informed, according to Sandy Leshinsky, a Marine spouse.

"It helps people to understand at least the reasons why [AAFES and DeCA officials] don't or can't do something," she said.

Lorrie Warchol, a family readiness coordinator for Special Operations Command Europe, attends the council meetings on behalf of the command and its families.

She said she appreciates the responsiveness of the store managers.

As an example, Warchol said in the past she requested that Panzer Commissary open on Saturday for the families who live in the Böblingen Housing Area. "They did a trial run, but unfortunately the numbers didn't add up," she said.

*The next AAFES/DeCA quarterly council meeting is scheduled for Sept. 1 in the Swabian Special Events Center from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Customer feedback can also be submitted by clicking on the ICE icon on the garrison website at [www.stuttgart.army.mil](http://www.stuttgart.army.mil).*

## News & Notes

### New CYS Services online system up and running

Parents in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart can now sign up for hourly child care or reserve a slot for a Parents Night Out through the Child, Youth and School Services' online registration system, WebTrac.

They can also enroll their children in CYS Services' School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills classes.

To use the system, families must be registered with CYS Services.

For more information, or to sign up, visit [www.stuttgartmwr.com](http://www.stuttgartmwr.com).

### Dental clinic announcement

Patch Dental Clinic officials have announced a significant reduction in dental appointment availability.

Three active duty general dental officers have deployed, and the clinic's orthodontist is due to relocate.

To help ensure care for service members, the Patch Dental Clinic will see family members on a space available basis.

To continue providing orthodontic care for current patients, orthodontists from nearby clinics will visit the Patch Dental Clinic.

Family members cannot be referred to other military clinics.

Officials say the best way to improve access to care for all patients is to attend scheduled appointments and arrive in a timely manner.

For more information, call the dental clinic at 430-8626/civ. 0711-680-8626.

### Submit ballot requests for upcoming state primaries

Seventeen states will hold primary elections over the summer. Service members, civilian employees and family members who have not yet submitted a registration and ballot request for the 2010 calendar year should do so as soon as possible.

The FPCA ballot application and instructions are available at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

### U.S. Army Europe 10-miler set for July 10 in Grafenwöhr

The U.S. Army Europe 10-Miler race is set for July 10 at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwöhr.

The top 12 active-duty Soldiers (six each in the men and women's divisions) will be nominated to represent USAREUR during the Oct. 24 Army 10-Miler in Washington, D.C.

To be considered, male competitors must finish in under 68 minutes, while female runners must finish in 86 minutes or less.

While only Soldiers can compete for the USAREUR team, all U.S. Department of Defense ID cardholders (18 and over) may participate.

To join the Stuttgart Stallions running team, contact Marty Smith 430-7047/0711-680-7047, or e-mail at [william.smith@eucom.mil](mailto:william.smith@eucom.mil).

Register online at <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/Grafenwoehrrectrac.html>.

# Ask a JAG

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

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

**Q:** *I am a reservist and was recently activated for service in Stuttgart. I love Germany, but also have a great job back home. I am afraid that I might lose it, due to being sent here. Additionally, after I arrived here, I learned that I've been sued back in the U.S. What are my rights?*

**A:** The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act provides employment protections to reservists and National Guardsmen who are activated for federal service.

A person who is employed when called to active duty, and who has already notified his employer of his service, may return to that job after deployment, so long as he was not away from it for more than five years, was released under honorable conditions, and reports back to his employer within a timely manner. USERRA applies to virtually all employers in the U.S., including government and American companies, along with foreign companies located within the U.S.

USERRA provides that an employer or prospective employer cannot deny a person employment, reemployment, promotion, or any benefit of employment simply because the prospective employee is a member of, applying to be a member of, or has been a member of the military.

The Veterans' Employment and Training Service with the Department of Labor will assist persons claiming rights under USERRA. If you request assistance, VETS will contact your employer to explain the law and conduct an investigation.

Regarding the lawsuit filed against you, the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act provides service members with a variety of protections. One protection is that service members who are unable to appear in a court due to their military duties may postpone the proceeding for at least 90 days.

To exercise these rights, you must make a written request to the court, explain why your current military duty affects your ability to appear, and provide a date when you will be able to appear. You must also include a letter from your commander stating that your duties preclude you from appearing in court and that you are not authorized leave for the hearing.

If you learn that a default judgment has been entered against you during your active duty service, or within 60 days thereafter, the SCRA gives you the ability to have the judgment set aside. To do so, you will need to show that you were prejudiced by not being able to appear in person, and that you have meritorious defenses to the claims against you.

*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.*

# 554th returns . . . . .

*Continued from page 1*

with area governance and security, to include the training of Afghan National Security Forces. Additionally, the 554th Military Police Company was tasked with providing security for the Commander of International Security Assistance Force."

Downrange, the Wardawgs missions included border security, forward operating base operations, force protection and area security. They also played a key role in the 2009 elections in Afghanistan.

"One of the most unique missions we did was to assist with the Afghan general election process," said Staff Sgt. Chun Huang, squad leader for 2nd Platoon. "We didn't provide direct security at the election sites, but conducted security sweeps of the staging areas around the voting locations to ensure a secure and clear passage for those wishing to vote."

For one Soldier, this deployment gave him insight into some of the Army's newest equipment.

"As a mechanic, this deployment gave me a lot of hands-on experience at doing my job, and I had the opportunity to work on the Army's new MRAP [Mine Resistant Ambush Protected] vehicle," said Sgt. Curtis Jones, Headquarters Platoon, who also deployed with the company in 2007.

"Deployments provide an opportunity to interact more with my leaders and fellow peers than is possible back at garrison," he said.

One aspect of Jones' deployment that differed greatly from his peer group was that his spouse was not in Stuttgart, but downrange with him.

"My wife, Sgt. Devon Jones, is the medic for 1st Platoon, and together we were able to share the experience," Jones said. "We had our tough days, but the deployment really brought us together as a couple."

Communicating was easy for them, but for Soldiers who were not within shouting distance of their loved ones, staying connected was a challenge.

"Using the computer was my main way of staying in touch with Keith, but that just wasn't enough, and I found that other spouses were experiencing the same communication void," said Allen.

However, for Allen, that void didn't just apply to



Larry Reilly

**Cpl. John Holloway, a 554th MP Co. Soldier, greets his son, Haigen, during the homecoming ceremony May 30.**

communicating with her husband downrange; it also applied to communicating with other spouses in Stuttgart. So, she decided to do something about it.

"I thought about going home as other spouses did, but I realized I had a better support system here in Stuttgart than I would have at home, and I decided to help other spouses realize the assets that were available to them," Allen said.

She did so by taking the position as the unit's Family Readiness Group leader.

"I had some exposure to what the FRG did and, with some peer pressure, I became the FRG [leader] about midway through the deployment," Allen said. "With support from other spouses, we set up monthly FRG informational meetings and provided community information through an internal monthly electronic newsletter."

The company commander appreciated the role Allen and the FRG played on the home front.

"The unit FRG and rear detachment were instrumental in keeping the families informed throughout the deployment," said Schmidt. "I've found that having an active FRG is important to having a successful mission downrange."



Larry Reilly

**Families and friends of the 554th MP Company cheer and applaud as the Wardawgs enter the Panzer Fitness Center on May 30 after a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan.**

# NCO of the Year. . . . .

*Continued from page 1*

rior tasks. Other competitors included NCOs from USAG Kaiserslautern, Wiesbaden, Vicenza, Bamberg, Ansbach and Benelux.

McDougall, who works for the USAG Stuttgart Provost Marshall Office, will go on to compete for the overall IMCOM title at the Military District of Washington competition July 12-16 in Fort Belvoir, Va.

“It says a lot about the Soldier, the garrison and the community,” said Command Sgt. Major Anthony M. Bryant, USAG Stuttgart command sergeant major. “It says a lot in reference to the system Stuttgart has in place — it’s mentoring, teaching, coaching and preparing young Soldiers to win.

“We may not be deploying, but we’re still training Soldiers to be able to do their wartime mission,” he added.

McDougall came into the competition with fresh knowledge of warrior tasks and skills needed on the battlefield: he returned from a 15-month deployment to Iraq in March 2009. His experience makes him a tough competitor, Bryant added.

“He’s a very confident leader,” Bryant said. “He had set his goals, and he knows the barriers he has to cross to get there.”

One barrier that McDougall has already crossed was taking the oral board examination at the IMCOM-Europe competition.

“I’m not a speaker — nerves kill me,” said McDougall, who hails from Indianapolis, Ind.

However, he practiced for months with the 2009 IMCOM NCO of the Year, co-worker Staff Sgt. Ronald White, and Master Sgt. Gary Cryder, provost sergeant.

“I personally believe it’s important for us to represent our community [and] keep passing on the knowledge that pre-

**“In a garrison unit, you don’t regularly get to do practical Soldier-type tasks. Doing a competition like this gives you a chance to fill in some of those gaps.”**

**Staff Sgt. Christopher McDougall**  
*IMCOM-E NCO of the Year*

vious NCOs gave us,” said White, who was trained by the 2008 IMCOM-Europe winner, Staff Sgt. Edmund Whipple.

McDougall’s extra work paid off: in addition to bragging rights, McDougall received \$1,600 in gift certificates and savings bonds, an Army Commendation Medal, a round-trip ticket to the U.S. and other prizes for taking the IMCOM-E title.

But there’s no time for McDougall to rest on his laurels.

He’s already training for the National Capital competition, with the help of Cryder and White.

Each day, McDougall’s co-workers pepper him with questions that he might be asked by the IMCOM board.

“If he doesn’t get them, he does push-ups,” Cryder said.

Cryder also whisks McDougall outside for training, without warning.

“I’ll say, ‘Grab your battle-rattle gear, let’s go,’” Cryder said. “It’s the ability to switch [tasks] like that.”

White tells McDougall what to



Gertrude Zach

**Staff Sgt. Christopher McDougall, heads to the finish of the 12-mile ruck march during the NCO competition.**

expect and ensures that he trains in all of the categories, including combative training, which is an additional part of the IMCOM-level competition.

McDougall doesn’t get tired of it all, however. Instead, he welcomes the chance to hone his skills.

“In a garrison unit, you don’t regularly get to do practical Soldier-type tasks,” McDougall said. “Doing a competition like this gives you a chance to fill in some of those gaps. It keeps you sharp on those things you need to be successful.”

McDougall’s desire to stay at the top of his game is one reason why Cryder first suggested that he compete for the NCO of the Year title.

“He has a certain quality to him,” Cryder said of McDougall. “He’s confident, but not in the way that you see so much on the exterior. He’s intelligent. He showed aptitude ... both mentally and physically.”

Cryder believes that these qualities will put yet another USAG Stuttgart NCO at the top of the IMCOM level competition, and even in the Army.

“McDougall has all the potential in the world,” he said.

Learn more, visit [ARMYOneSource.com](http://ARMYOneSource.com) to see what the Army Family Covenant can mean for you or someone you know.



Larry Reilly

**Soldier of the Year Spc. Luis Berber (from left), an MP from USAG Grafenwöhr; Command Sgt. Major Tracey Anbiya, IMCOM-E command sergeant major; Diane Devens, IMCOM-E regional director, and 2010 IMCOM-E NCO of the Year Staff Sgt. Christopher McDougall cut the cake during the award ceremony June 1.**

## Safety equipment for skates/skateboards

*Soldiers who skate, skateboard or ride a kick-scooter are required to wear approved safety gear, according to AE Reg 190-1.*

*This includes a helmet complying with bicycle helmet standards (see AR 1901-1, Chap. 5-7, para c(4)), knee pads, elbow pads and wrist guards, as well as light-colored clothing or reflective accessories.*

USAG STUTTGART

photos.com

# New housing policy gives enlisted families priority on-post

By **Brittany Carlson**

*USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office*

**A** newly-revised housing policy for U.S. Army Europe requires that all garrisons in Europe house up to 100 percent of all accompanied junior enlisted personnel on post, along with up to 10 percent of accompanied officers and senior enlisted service members.

The policy, published in March by USAREUR, was put into effect in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart on June 1.

According to the policy memorandum signed by USAREUR Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Robert Brown, the purpose for the revision is to “allocate more housing for junior enlisted families so that they have better access to on-post support facilities.”

The policy will also alleviate the financial burden these service members — privates through staff sergeants — face in paying for accommodations on the economy.

“Housing in Germany is expensive,” said Col. Richard M. Pastore, USAG Stuttgart commander. “It impacts our enlisted families to a much greater degree than it does senior enlisted and officers. [The policy] will give them much nicer and more spacious accommodations on post than they would be able to afford off post.”

It also helps junior-level service members and families acclimate to a new place, especially in a foreign country, said Staff Sgt. James Davis, who is working on his fourth tour of duty in Germany. Davis and his family live in off-post housing.

“If it’s your first time in Europe, it’s better to live on post,” he said. “[Off post] you’re dealing with paying your bills, and you have to learn to speak a little bit of German.”

In order to make room for incoming junior enlisted families, the garrison housing office has re-allocated 39 buildings — currently used as officer or senior enlisted housing — for junior enlisted service members and their families.

In addition, 158 stairwell units currently being renovated will help provide on-post housing for junior enlisted

families.

“This means we’ll be able to house a significant percentage of junior enlisted [families]. Based on the community’s footprint, chances are we’re going to be able to house more than 10 percent of the senior enlisted and officer families,” Pastore said.

No one currently housed on post (or off post) will have to move.

“It’s done by attrition,” said Iris

“It’s all about helping junior enlisted families financially, but also giving them a very nice set of quarters to live in ... with access to all the facilities and the benefits they entail.”

**Col. Richard M. Pastore**  
*USAG Stuttgart commander*

Jones, chief of the Stuttgart Housing Division. “Everyone will get to maintain their quarters until their DEROS [Date Eligible for Return from Overseas] dates.”

When accompanied junior enlisted personnel arrive, they will be given available government housing.

For the next two to three years, the buildings that have been re-designated will be occupied by both officers and enlisted personnel, Pastore said.

During the transition, garrison residents may experience some frustrations. However, inconveniences pale in comparison to the policy’s benefits, Pastore said.

“It’s all about helping junior enlisted families financially, but also giving them a very nice set of quarters to live in,” he said. “This is bringing them on base with access to all the facilities and the benefits they entail.”

As accompanied senior enlisted personnel and officers arrive, some will receive government housing; however, the majority of them will be housed off-post.

“This is not that unusual, however, as we can accommodate only about 30 percent of our entire population on post,” said Pastore.

However, Housing Chief Jones doesn’t foresee any problems with finding enough housing.

“We have a team diligently working to bring more off-post housing into our inventory to accommodate the new housing policy,” she added.

Jones knows her team can handle the extra load.

“We can take that challenge. We did it before,” she said, referring to when U.S. Africa Command was stood up two years ago, flooding the housing office with military and civilian personnel.

In addition, the housing office will help families with young children find a home near one of the garrison schools.

“We’re going to try to house as many families on post as we possibly can,” she said.

To view the new policy, visit <https://aepubs.army.mil/library/>.



Susan Huseman

*Junior enlisted service members will now have priority in military family housing, thanks to a new USAREUR housing policy. The policy is meant to provide these families with better access to on-post support facilities.*



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See more community photos at [www.flickr.com/photos/usagstuttgart](http://www.flickr.com/photos/usagstuttgart)

**Garrison celebrates Independence Day**

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host a variety of events July 4. These include

- A 5K Family Fun Run at 10 a.m. on Husky Field, Patch Barracks. No registration is necessary.
- The 4th of July celebration from 4 p.m. to midnight on Husky Field. There will be fireworks, children's rides, family activities, food and beverages and live entertainment.

For more information, call 421-2889/civ. 0711-729-2889.

**Facilities to close for July 4 holidays**

In observance of the Independence Day and training holidays, many garrison facilities, to include the Stuttgart Army Health Clinic, will be closed July 2-5. It is advised to call ahead before visiting.

**Stuttgart RCO closed June 30**

The Stuttgart Regional Contracting Office will be closed on June 30, due to an off-site function. For more information, call 421-4097/civ. 0711-729-4097.

**Sign up for VBS**

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Religious Support Office will sponsor a "High Seas" Vacation Bible School at Patch Elementary School July 26-30 from 9 a.m. to noon and at Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle School August 2-6 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Children 4 years old through grade five are eligible to participate. Register through June 30.



Susan Huseman

**Pre-K graduates off to 'strong' start**

*Students of U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Strong Beginnings program watch a slide show of their progress throughout the school year during a graduation ceremony June 4. The Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Child, Youth and School Services-sponsored school readiness program is designed to equip children with the skills needed to start kindergarten.*

Forms are located in all garrison chapels, the Patch Religious Education Center (Building 232) and in the RSO on Panzer Kaserne (Building 2948).

For more information, call 431-3079/civ. 07031-15-3079.

**Sign up for Run to Remember**

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Run to Remember 5K/half-marathon will be held on July 17 on Panzer Kaserne. The half-marathon starts at 9 a.m. and the 5K starts at 10 a.m.

Register at the Patch/Panzer Fitness Centers until July 15. For more information, call 430-7136/civ. 0711-680-7136.

**BOSS to host "Toy Story 3" event**

The U.S. Army Garrison

Stuttgart Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program will host a showing of the summer comedy "Toy Story 3" June 26 at noon in the Patch Theater.

The cost is \$12 for pizza, popcorn, a drink and movie ticket. Children ages 6 and under are free. For more information, e-mail Spc. Michael Votta at Michael.Votta@eur.army.mil.

**AAFES is hiring**

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service in Stuttgart is now hiring for regular part-time and temporary positions.

Applicants must successfully complete a background check and be available to work weekends and evenings.

For more information, call the AAFES Human Resource Office at 07031-4395-104/105.

Applications are available online at [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com).

**Do you have an announcement?**

The Citizen is the perfect place to get information out to the Stuttgart community.

Send your community-wide announcements to [stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil](mailto:stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil).

**Register for EEO training by June 20**

The next Equal Employment Opportunity initial training is scheduled for June 23 in Room 217, Building 2307, Patch Barracks. Training will run from 10 a.m. to noon for employees and 1-3 p.m. for managers and supervisors.

Registration is required no later than June 20. For more

information, call the EEO Training Coordinator at 430-5256/civ. 0711-680-5256.

**Register for Women's Career Workshop**

A Women's Career Development Workshop will be held July 15 from 9-11 a.m. in the Army Community Service conference room, Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne. The workshop will focus on personal and professional development/mentorship.

Register by July 12. For more information, call the Equal Opportunity Special Emphasis Program Manager at 430-5256/civ. 0711-680-5256.

**Learn how to earn master's degree**

An information session on earning a Master of Business Administration or Master of Arts in Education through the University of Phoenix is scheduled for June 23.

For more information, e-mail [Erin.Lipton@phoenix.edu](mailto:Erin.Lipton@phoenix.edu), or call civ. 07031-15-3428.

**ACS teaches breast-feeding basics**

Expecting a baby? Learn everything you will need to know about breast-feeding June 24 or Aug. 12 from 9-11 a.m. at Army Community Service, Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne.

For more information, contact the ACS New Parent Support Program at 431-3353/civ. 07031-15-3353.

**Garrison news now available via e-mail**

Would you like to learn about garrison events through e-mail news briefs and flashes?

Send an e-mail to [stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil](mailto:stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil) with "add me to your mailing list" in the subject line.

**Donate blood**

A Stuttgart community blood drive will be held July 1 in the Kelley Fitness Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To make an appointment through the Armed Services Blood Program, visit [www.militarydonor.com](http://www.militarydonor.com). Walk-ins are welcome.

**Sports physicals**

The Stuttgart Army Health Clinic will conduct sports physicals for students and youth sports participants on June 26, July 24 and Aug. 28.

To schedule an appointment, call the clinic at 430-8610/civ. 0711-680-8610.

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*[Above] Patch High School graduates Susan Page lists her salutatorian address at the commencement exercises at the Sindelfingen School in Germany. She is taking a sabbatical year.*

*[Left] Patch High School graduates toss their mortarboards at the end of the June commencement exercises, as a final celebration of their school years.*



*Michael Adams*



*Mistie Anderson*



*Derek Arnesen*



*Rachel Banchs*



*Jobnatban Beasley*



*Lucas Bispo*



*Viktoria Blanchard*



*Jasmine*



*Morgan Carbone*



*Samantha Clarke*



*April Cole*



*Sefora Cotugno*



*William Crandall*



*Nicole Cruz*



*Tiara Cruz*



*Carissa Cryer*



*Brandon Crytzer*



*Kari Duncan*



*Eddie Eggleston*



*Mykayla Fernandes*



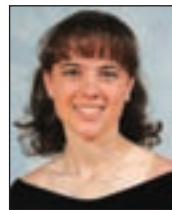
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*Antonia Fortuna*



*Julian Foster*



*Tiffany Fowler*



*Cole Garraghty*



*Miranda Garst*



*Victoria Harvey*



*Brianna Heber*



*Chance Hibbs*



*Javier Hilly*



*Dustin Hoskins*



*Madeline Hrinko*



*Timothy Huang*



*Leighna Hubbard*



*Joseph Jamison*



*Brent Lovato*



*Christina Lowry*



*Asbanti Marlowe*



*Sarah Martinez*



*Rachael Masset*



*John Mauch*



*Lewis Mbote*



*Kaitlyn McCarthy*



*Jocelyn McDaniel*

# PHS graduates 126 seniors

Story & photos by Susan Huseman  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

**P**atch High School sent its 31st class out into the world June 10. One hundred and twenty-six seniors crossed the Sindelfingen Stadthalle stage to accept their high school diplomas and embark on the journey into adulthood.

The class of 2010 had a remarkable year — academically, athletically and in community service, according to Will Viana, salutatorian.

But they didn't do it alone.

Viana asked his classmates to remember those who contributed to their success and brought them to this milestone: their families.

"Not only did you birth and raise us; you gave us free food and lodging, a good environment in which to succeed, and the encouragement we needed to navigate the difficulties of high school and stand proudly before you today," he told the audience. "For everything you've done, we thank you."

According to Valedictorian Grant Petersen, the freedom and independence he and his

fellow students are about to experience might be overwhelming for some, but the class of 2010 is psyched for the challenge.

"We have been prepared by our families, by Patch High School and by a wealth of cultural experiences unique to overseas students," he told the crowd. "We are ready for it."

Along with freedom comes responsibility, Petersen said, and he urged the seniors to build moral compasses based on the values learned from their parents.

"If you think it's wrong, it probably is, so don't do it," he advised, using a much-repeated quote of Susan Page, PHS principal.

Commencement speaker Maj. Gen. Michael A. Snodgrass, U.S. Africa Command chief of staff, offered his own words of wisdom.

"Nothing is out of your reach," he told the graduates. "You can do whatever you can see in your mind ... whatever

you know in your heart."

He also offered what he called "keys to survival." "Be around positive people — people who share your own vision, people who want to achieve the same things you want to achieve," he said.

The commencement ceremony not only marked a new beginning for graduating seniors, but for Principal Page, as well.

Page, at the helm of PHS for the past five years, will take a sabbatical for family reasons.

"I'm not sure what I'm going to do with all my black and gold [clothing], though you can be sure I will continue to proudly wear my Patch T-shirts and hoodies," she told the audience.

To the graduates, Page gave the following advice: "... I encourage you to take the positive memories with you, learn from the negative ones, and move forward. Be nice, laugh a lot, follow your passion, work hard and never stop learning."

"I am so proud of you," she concluded.

And with those words, Page and the seniors each began the next chapter of their lives.

Senior photos are courtesy of Memories International



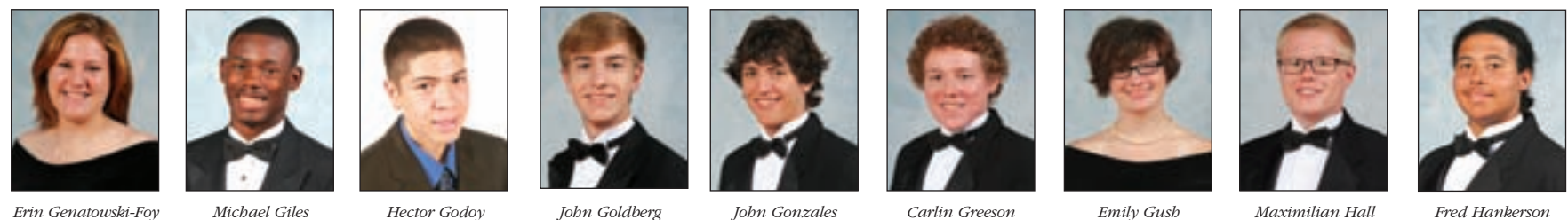
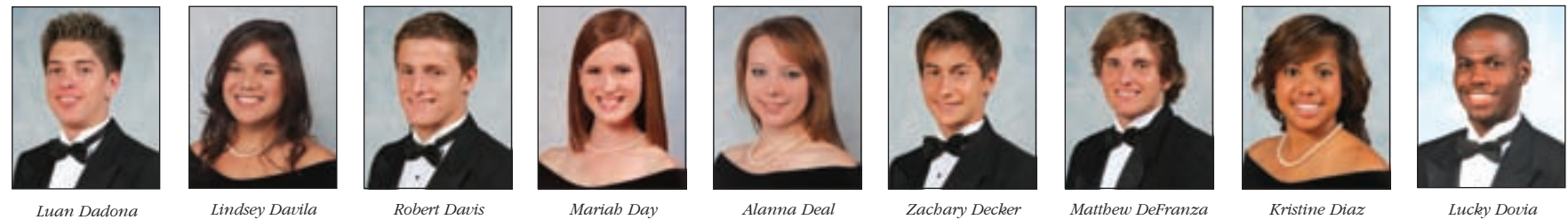
High School Principal Viana's dress during the PHS exercise held June 10 in Stadthalle. After being principal for five years, Page

School's class of 2010 boards in the air at the 10 commencement

rewell to their high



Maj. Gen. Snodgrass





Maxwell Perry



Grant Petersen



Chantal Peterson



Justin Phelps



Ian Plotner



Brita Portis



Alicia Rabn



P.J. Redmond



Claire Richardson



Alyssa Robertson



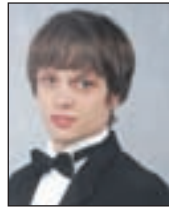
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or call 431-3113/civ. 07031-15-3113.

# Canines, companions enjoy dog day afternoon

Story & photos by Susan Huseman  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Every dog has its day. This idiom was especially true at Bark in the Park, an afternoon of four-legged fun sponsored by U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Family and Morale, Recreation and Welfare, and held June 5 at the Hundeverein dog training area next to the K and K Gate on Patch Barracks.

"I love seeing all the dogs — the different sizes and breeds," said Rina Rinard, who brought her two Chihuahuas, Oscar and Lola, to the event. "We don't live on base, so we don't get to socialize much. It's great to get out and meet people."

Dogs provide non-judgmental loyalty, friendship and companionship, said Army Capt. Amy Field, the vet at the Stuttgart Veterinary Treatment Facility.

For example, dachshunds are well known for their devotion to their owners.

But that devotion is a two-way street, at least for Kyle and Wendy Robbins. The couple brought Guinness, their 16-year-old dachshund in a plush dog stroller.

The event was all about getting animals and owners together for a bit of leisurely fun, according to Martha Povich, the FMWR special events coordinator and Bark in the Park organizer.

"Our pets are a part of our lives, and as much as we'd like to spend more hours in any given day with them, we usually can't," she said.

More Bark in the Park photos are available at [www.flickr.com/photos/usagstuttgart](http://www.flickr.com/photos/usagstuttgart).



Zachery Parr coaches Champ, an Australian Cattle Dog, as the dog attempts to snatch the treat off his nose on the count of three.



Deane Swickard, 10, shows off his new Jack Russell Terrier puppy, Coco, at Bark in the Park. Coco won the "Cutest Puppy" contest.



[Left] Tarzan, a military working dog, latches on to Staff Sgt. Kenneth Johnson during a K-9 demonstration on June 5. [Right] William Marks puts his dog Mako, a Hungarian Vizsla, through the paces on the obstacle course at FMWR's Bark in the Park June 5.



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EUROPE

NEWS FOR NEWS MAKERS

# Sweet revenge:

Patch High School swipes DODDS-Europe Division I baseball title from rival Ramstein

By Brittany Carlson

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

**F**or the Patch Panthers' baseball team, victory never tasted so sweet.

Patch High School beat longtime rival Ramstein 10-9 for the Department of Defense Dependents Schools Europe Division I Championship May 29 at Ramstein, topping off a perfect 22-0 season like a cherry on an ice cream sundae.

Dylan Measells, sophomore; team captain Cavan Cohoes, junior; and seniors Justin Phelps and P.J. Redmond were named to the All-European team.

It felt like "just desserts" for the Panthers, who lost the championship to the Ramstein Royals in 2008.

"They beat us by a home run," recalled Shawn Phelps, head coach and father of the team's star pitcher, Justin Phelps.

"It was even sweeter this time to come back and to beat them with a home run coming back at them," he said.

It was no easy victory, either.

PHS started off slow, committing some crucial errors and giving up four runs to the Royals. By the bottom of the fifth, they trailed Ramstein 8-3.

However, the team didn't quit.

During the fifth inning, sophomore Dylan Measells hit a single to left field. Justin Phelps followed with another.

When the bases were loaded, senior Ryan Brady hit a ground ball and Measells scored. C.J. Kellogg, sophomore, then hit a single to drive home Justin Phelps and Cohoes, bringing the score



Photos by Thui Phelps

[Left] Cavan Cohoes, PHS junior, crosses home plate at the bottom of the fifth during the DODDS-Europe Division 1 baseball championship May 29. [Above] Justin Phelps, senior, winds up for a pitch during the game.

to 8-6.

"At 8-3 I lost hope — I was kinda upset. [Those hits] helped give me some momentum," Redmond said.

In the sixth inning, Justin Phelps hit a single off the glove of Ramstein pitcher Tyler Breed, bringing sophomore Ryan Tannenbaum and Redmond home to tie the score at 8-8, according to Shawn Phelps.

Justin Phelps then stole third base and, two pitches later, Cohoes hit a home run, bringing the Panthers' total to 10 runs.

"I knew we were about to come back with Justin and Cavan on the plate about to hit," Redmond said.

The two batters hold the record for

most career home runs at PHS: Justin Phelps with 11, and Cohoes with five, all of which he scored during his first season on the team this year. Phelps was also named All-Tournament MVP pitcher, and threw 159 pitches during the two days of finals.

Ramstein added one more run in the top of the seventh, bringing the score to 10-9, but stopped short of reclaiming the trophy.

"After two years of losing to them, we finally got what we deserved," Justin Phelps said.

While the whole team contributed, the final victory was due largely to Cohoes' role as captain, said Shawn Phelps.

Under Cohoes' leadership, the Pan-

thers hit 21 home runs this season, 16 more than its previous record, he added. Cohoes also set a single season record for assists (28).

"Baseball is my thing," Cohoes said. "I want to play pro baseball someday, so I'm trying to work hard."

Most importantly, he set an example for the team.

"He stayed after practice every day," Shawn Phelps said. "That work ethic and desire is contagious."

With Cohoes back for another year, along with All-European Measells, the Panthers now set their sights on 2011.

"I hope Cavan can lead [us] next year," Measells said. "Hopefully, the younger players will step up."

## PHS senior dominates DODDS-Europe Track and Field Champs

As hundreds of spectators look on, Patch High School senior Julius Johnson-Rich crosses the finish line first in the 200-meter dash at the Department of Defense Dependents Schools Europe Track and Field Championships May 28-29 in Rüsselsheim. Johnson-Rich earned gold in three events: the 100-meter dash (11.08 seconds), 200-meter dash (22.26) and 400-meter dash (49.83). Senior Michael Niccoll took second place in the shot put with a distance of 43 feet, 11.5 inches. The women's PHS track team took first place in the 1,600-meter sprint medley relay, with a time of 4:23.48. They also earned a third-place win in the 100-meter relay with a time of 51.66.

Chrystal Smith





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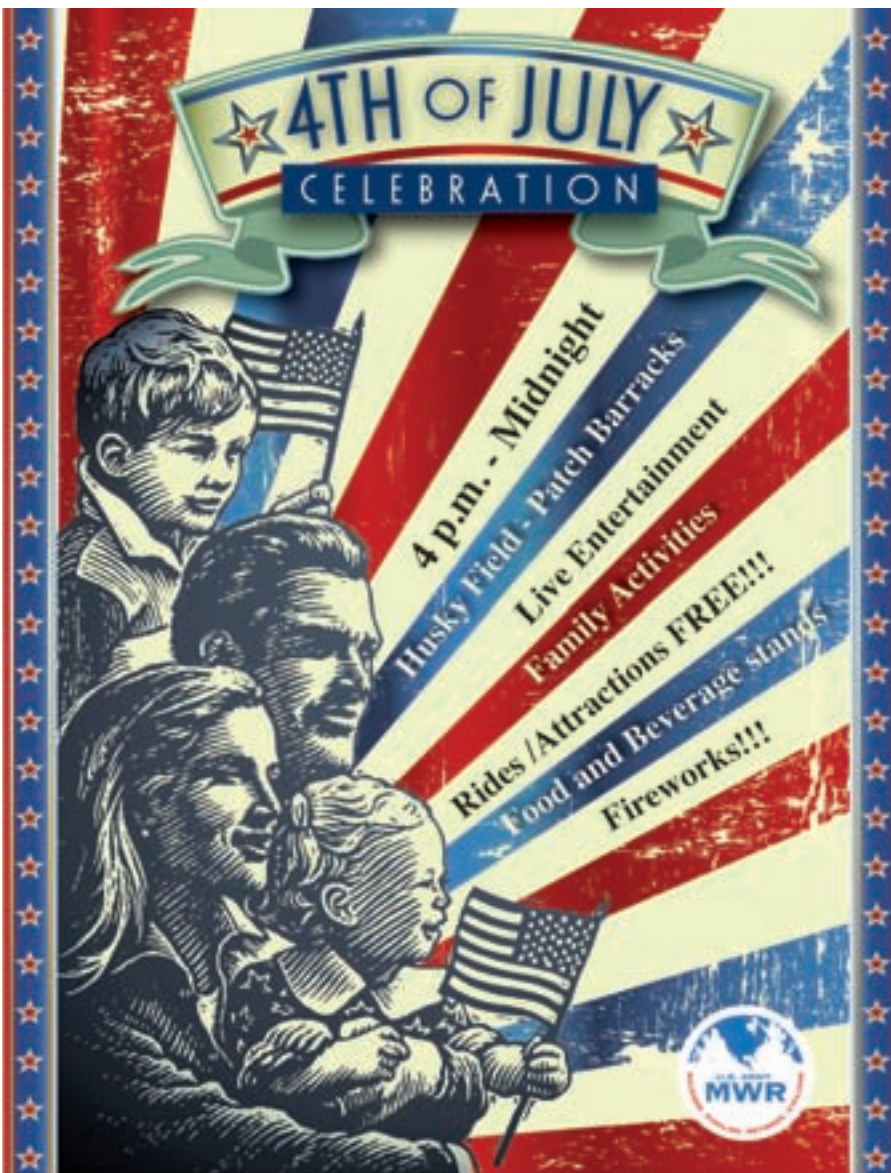
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**The USAREUR G4**, PBUSE Mentoring Conference, 25 May 2010, Sullivan Bks Mannheim, was an outstanding success for the Property Book and Unit Supply Enhanced (PBUSE) users, there were 141+ attendees from all over Europe. Next scheduled USA-REUR G4 PBUSE Mentoring Conference will be in Oct 2010, more details to follow. POC: Randy Fizer, 481-3470

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**Electric Scooter. Razor-type** scooter with electric rechargeable-motor by Sharper Image. Goes about 8 MPH on flat surfaces. 110v.\$75.00. Write [teip@yahoo.com](mailto:teip@yahoo.com) or call 0177 297 3654.

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**Antique German oak** shrank/armoire- 2 drs w/ 2 drawers below. Small blackart deco inlay. \$175; Weber Q-Grill (medium sized) Like new cond \$125; Small antique English round oak table w/ door in thepedestal: \$75; comp desk w/ shelves (natural pine coloring), ex cond \$30; 4 small IKEA woodenselves \$5ea or 4 for \$12; 1 sm round back antique oak chair w/ upholstered seat \$10; Cannondale mountain tandem, great cond M/S. \$895; photos avail jarrett@t-online.de, 07157-537345.

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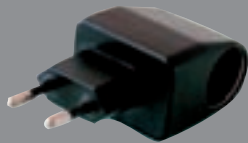
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