

The Citizen

STUTTGART

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Serving the Greater Stuttgart Military Community

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Photos by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Soldiers of USAG Stuttgart wear their new patch for the first time after IMCOM became a major subordinate command of AMC.

IMCOM transitions to Army Materiel Command

By Susan A. Merkner
U.S. Army Installation Management
Command
Public Affairs

With flags waving and trading of unit patches, USAG Stuttgart Soldiers who served the Army Installation Management Command transitioned to fall under the command of Army Materiel Command as a major subordinate command.

A local ceremony changing out the patches took place on the Panzer Kaserne parade field, with garrison commander Col. Neal Corson trading Command Sgt. Maj. Toesa Tia's patch first. Once the garrison's senior noncommissioned officer donned the new patch, leaders from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, the Religious Support Office and Military Police moved through the ranks to complete the change.

The transition from IMCOM to AMC was formally acknowledged during an assumption of authority ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas, March 8.

The transition establishes unity of command and effort on installations, improves the readiness of Soldiers and formations, and strengthen the well-being of Soldiers, civilians and families.

The move, part of the Army's aggressive ongoing reforms, was

effective March 1 to free up resources for readiness and modernization efforts and to improve overall efficiency.

The AMC commander, Gen. Gus Perna, is based at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama; Lt. Gen. Bradley A. Becker, IMCOM commanding general, continues to serve at Fort Sam Houston.

No military or civilian personnel moves are expected at this time due to the realignment. IMCOM has 50,000 employees worldwide.

Perna said Army installations play a vital role in establishing military might and sustaining troops, and praised IMCOM professionals for their work.

"The realm of responsibility you have is incredible," Perna said. "We are very grateful for what you have done."

Becker thanked AMC leaders for their recent support.

"There is real value in having a higher headquarters," Becker said. "We think alike, and we share a culture of service."

IMCOM is the 10th command aligned under AMC. Its realignment reinforces the Army's priority of readiness, ensuring all installations are postured to provide the best support, services and facilities.

AMC performs installation support and service functions, from management of installation power-projection platforms to installation contracting services.

This realignment consolidates base operations and other similar

support functions under one command and leverages the Army's existing expertise in logistics, sustainment and services.

This effort is one of the ongoing reforms of management and headquarters to make the Army as efficient as possible and ensure the prioritization of resources to readiness and modernization.

The Army continues to focus on reform to modernize the force and increase lethality in support of multi-domain operations.

(Editor's note: John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs, contributed to this article.)



Col. Neal Corson, USAG Stuttgart commander, trades Command Sgt. Maj. Toesa Tia's IMCOM patch for an AMC patch.

Army senior leaders send: Don't be a bystander

By Mark T. Esper
Secretary of the Army
and Gen. Mark A. Milley
Army Chief of Staff

As members of the United States Army, each of us has an obligation to promote a climate of trust—our profession's bedrock—throughout our organization. The way we do this is by living the Army Values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage.

From the newest Soldiers in basic training, to our most senior leaders, the Army Values bind us together as a profession. While much is changing for the Army right now, our Values will not. They are enduring and remain as relevant today as they were when first created. When it comes to living the Army Values, there can be no bystanders.

Across the Total Army, we continue to focus on eradicating sexual harassment and sexual assault from our ranks. We must do everything within

our power to rid the Army of these crimes. This is a readiness issue that

affects our ability to accomplish our mission. Over the past several years, we have placed a high priority on our prevention efforts, and although we are on the right trajectory, we still have significant room to improve. In all components, sexual assault reporting is increasing, which is an indication that our Soldiers trust their leaders to address the situation in a professional manner. We all have a responsibility to look out for one another—there can be no bystanders. Stay alert when the warning signs become present, and if you see something, ACT! Leaders and Soldiers have an ethical obligation to intervene to stop sexual harassment and sexual assault from happening. Those who do not, violate the Nation's trust and the trust of their peers.

The Army will continue to improve the effectiveness of our prevention



efforts moving forward. In April, we will co-lead a Joint SHARP

Conference hosted by the Military Service Academies that will bring together college and university leaders from across the country to share best practices. As our society wrestles with this difficult problem, the Army will continue to take a leading role in developing solutions. This starts by ensuring that the perpetrators of sexual harassment and sexual assault are held accountable and that the victims are protected without fear of retribution.

Throughout the force, we must also continue to focus on preventing suicides. Although suicides fell by 1.3 percent across the Total Army in 2018, Regular Army suicides increased by a troubling 18 percent. Our most vulnerable population consists of our junior Soldiers. Leaders and teammates must watch attentively for indicators

of suicides and inform their chain of command when they know trouble is on the horizon. Every loss of life from suicide is a tragedy that could have been prevented. Our NCOs are the first line of defense - we expect you to know your Soldiers, visit them in the barracks, and provide them the care and assistance they need and deserve.

We're counting on each of you to help solve these problems. Every instance of sexual assault or suicide has a moment when someone could have intervened to change the outcome. Have the courage to stand up and act when you see something wrong. Seize the opportunity to get your teammate help or to remove your battle buddy from the environment when warning signs become present. We need everyone on this team to be ready to fight when called upon, which can only happen if we look out for one another. Let us all reaffirm our commitment to our values and to one another. In doing so, we will remain the strongest army on the face of the earth.

Still time left to support 2019 AER Campaign

Public Affairs
USAG Stuttgart

Donating to Army Emergency Relief, a private non-profit organization that provides financial assistance to Soldiers, active and retired, and their families, is selfless. It's about supporting the whole Army team during unexpected financial hardship. This year marks the 77th year of the annual AER campaign, ongoing until May 15.

AER has assisted other service members of the Stuttgart military community, too. A reciprocal agreement allows AER offices to assist personnel from all branches of service (the other services all have their own version of AER). Assistance is based on need, and while no two situations are alike, AER, which is managed locally by, tries its best to find a way to say yes. Part of the Army team, AER

approves 99 percent of all valid need requests. There is no limit to the amount of assistance, in most cases.

"Our 2018 campaign collection totaled \$17,490.23," said Merilee K. Nevins, USAG Stuttgart AER coordinator, referring to last year's local donations.

Since 1942, \$2 billion in assistance was provided to nearly four million Soldiers.

To make a donation to AER, see your unit representative; visit www.aerhq.org; speak to the AER officer at USAG Stuttgart Army Community Service in Bldg. 2915, Panzer Kaserne; or call 4312-3348.



Photo by Spc. Laura M. Buchta, U.S. Army
Pvt. 1st Class Ryan Mahan helps Spc. Stephen McLain up a hill in Chinchal, Iraq. Army Emergency Relief is a financial assistance organization and is dedicated to helping the Army take care of its own.

The Citizen

UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON STUTTGART

Commander
Col. Neal A. Corson

Senior Enlisted Adviser
Command Sgt. Maj.
Toese Tia

Public Affairs Officer
Larry Reilly

Command Information Chief
and Editor
John Reese

Contributors
Angelika Aguilar
Holly DeCarlo-White

USAG STUTTGART PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Building 2949, Panzer Kaserne

Army Post Office Mailing Address
Unit 30401, APO AE 09107

German Mailing Address
Panzer Kaserne Geb. 2949, 3rd Floor,
Panzerstrasse, 70032 Böblingen

Telephone: +49 07031-15-3105
DSN (314) 431-3105

Web: www.StuttgartCitizen.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/USAGarrisonStuttgart/

PUBLISHER

AdvantiPro GmbH
Europaallee 3
67657 Kaiserslautern
Telephone: +49 (0) 631-30 3355 30
Web: www.AdvantiPro.com
Managing Director
Bret Helenius

ADVERTISING IN THE CITIZEN
Display Advertising Contact
Jaqueline Samad
Telephone: +49 (0) 631-30 3355 37

Email: Ads@StuttgartCitizen.com
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Garrison CYS, ACS partner for military children

By Army Community Service
USAG Stuttgart

April is a time to honor the sacrifices made by military families and emphasize the experiences the children from those families face. It's a celebration of their strength and ability to adapt to present and future changes. Military children deserve our respect and admiration.

During the Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month, the USAG Stuttgart Youth Services and Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program (FAP) have teamed up to celebrate military children.

This year's MOMC theme is "Military Kids Can," recognizing that through strength and resilience, these young heroes can do anything they set their minds to. By living in different states, countries, and continents, military children face unique challenges that most youth their age don't experience. They're equipped to adapt to present and future changes.

CYS and the FAP offer many different programs that support military children and their parents. CYS Child Development Programs offer childcare for children six weeks up to 12 years old. These programs provide high quality childcare to the USAG Stuttgart community. The CYS Youth Centers are for children grades 6-12. CYS's Sports and Fitness Programs provide team sports, individual sports, fitness, and health programs. SKIES Unlimited offers extracurricular instructional classes. They have a variety of classes such as Jiu-jitsu, gymnastics, German language, piano, dance and tennis.

The FAP conducts several parenting classes throughout the year. The FAP New Parent Support Program support to parents of children through the age of 3 years old, with classes and



The resilient children of Patch Elementary School recite the Pledge of Allegiance during a 2018 school activity.

Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

April 2019 MOMC activities

April 18—FAP Canvas and Cupcakes, a free family art night, 6pm-8pm at the Panzer Chapel Annex.

April 20—Tripsdrill Family Trip. Please sign up at Parent Central and/or pay via WebTrac online.

April 23—Resiliency Through Reading 6-8 p.m. at RB Library. Receive a free copy of "I Am Enough" by Grace Byers. Listen to a dramatic reading, participate in a craft activity, and receive a "to go" snack.

April 26-27—Operation Megaphone/Lock-In/STRONG Kids, 6-8 p.m. at The Hub.

April 27—Spring Fest "The Greatest Show" at Husky Field, Patch Barracks 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free to all families. Come out and support the military children with a day of fun activities.

For information on classes and events, visit ACS, Bldg. 2915, 2nd floor, Panzer Kaserne or call 431-3518/3362 or 07031-15-3518/3362. For information on CYS programming, call Parent and Outreach Services at Bldg. 2347, 2nd Floor, Patch Barracks, or call 430-7480 or 0711-680-7480.

education on potty-training, discipline, lactation support, and education on developmental mile stones and appropriate play. The FAP also conducts parenting education, such

as ScreamFree, Positive Discipline and Gottman's Bringing Baby Home. FAP Educators are in the schools providing students with a variety of topics that build personal development



Photo by Joe Holder, School Liaison Officer Dora Issad, left, mentally prepares herself to drive off the edge of a tree as she steps into a roped pedal car to build her resiliency with support from Alexandra Souter during a 2018 Ready & Resilient experience.

and life skills. The goal of the FAP is to educate the community about its role in preventing child abuse and making the USAG Stuttgart a better place for our children.

Sustain environment to secure mission

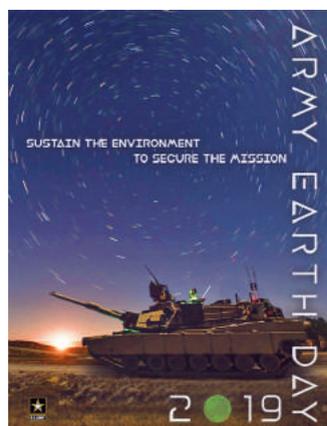
By Alex Beehler
Assistant Secretary of the Army

On April 22, the United States Army will join the nation in celebrating Earth Day.

Earth Day is an opportunity to emphasize our commitment to stewardship of the lands and environmental resources entrusted to us; the lands where our Soldiers, families and civilians train, live, and work. The Army's participation in Earth Day aims to inspire awareness and appreciation of the environment and how sustaining the environment secures the military mission. The success of the Army's warfighting readiness mission is inseparable from the environmental resources that are essential to accomplishing

that mission.

Readiness and modernization require access to realistic natural landscapes and environmental conditions that Soldiers experience during combat. The Army sustains our environment by maintaining and enhancing natural and cultural resources, and making certain our air and water is clean and safe. In sustaining the environment, the Army secures the mission by ensuring installation lands have the capabilities to support readiness and modernization.



This Earth Day, and every day, we all have an opportunity to make a difference. By making the right choices today, our Army will remain the world's premier military force into the future.

Please take the time to find out what the Army is doing for Earth Day 2019 <https://aec.army.mil/index.php/earth-day>.

I encourage you to participate in Army Earth Day events.

Do your part to help sustain the environment - the mission of the Army depends on it!



Photo by Ikonact

Bulgarian colored eggs

April egg hunts

Hunt for eggs, enjoy games and crafts, and take photos with Mr. Bunny, 2 p.m., April 20, at the USO Spring Eggstravaganza on Patch Barracks' Husky Field.

The American Legion Post 6 hosts its annual egg hunt, 1 p.m., April 21 (Easter Sunday), outside of the Patch Community Club at 1 p.m. All ages and community members are welcome.

Employing persons with disabilities in new millennium

Equal Employment Opportunity Office
USAG Stuttgart

During the history of the U.S., there've been advances in recognizing persons with disabilities in private and in the workforce. At the forefront, the federal government has been a leader for several decades. Notably, since the turn of the century, landmark guidance has been issued directly from the

White House with positive impact on the disabled workforce.

The USAG Stuttgart Equal Employment Opportunity Office presents a Disability Employment Awareness Outreach at the Kelley Barracks Theater, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., April 29. This outreach event highlights a five-member panel of subject matter experts with backgrounds in reasonable accommodations, physical

obstacles, legal issues, local national employment of persons with disabilities, and employment challenges faced by current and future federal employees. It's open to all who want to attend.

Executive Orders 13163 and 13164, both signed July 26, 2000, by President William Clinton, addressed the requirement for federal agencies to increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities as well as provided the structure needed for federal agencies to provide reasonable accommodation for applicants and current employees to ensure those individuals are able to enjoy the same benefit of employment as employees with disabilities. These executive orders mandated procedures be developed for processing reasonable accommodations. The final element of these executive orders mandated the hiring of an additional 100,000 individuals with disabilities into the federal workforce.

Ten years later, Executive Order 13548, signed July 26, 2010, by President Barack Obama, acknowledged the remaining deficiency of federal workers with disabilities and issued the requirement that federal agencies improve efforts to hire more workers with disabilities. This order outlined specific steps for Federal agencies to take, and oversight responsibility to fulfill the president's goal that the federal government become a model for the employment of persons with disabilities.

To reach the goal of the federal government being a model employer

Find out more at EEO

For more information, visit the USAG Stuttgart Equal Employment Opportunity Office, Bldg. 2948, Rm. 409, Panzer Kaserne, or call 431-3355 or 07031-153355, or email usarmy.stuttgart.id-europe.mbx.eeo@mail.mil.



of persons with disabilities, a multifaceted approach was implemented. First, strategies needed to be developed and implemented to increase disability hiring strategies and training programs specifically for human resources personnel. Agencies were required to designate senior-level officials who were accountable for implementation and enhancement of these hiring efforts. Agencies were also encouraged to increase utilization of Schedule A excepted service hiring and increase participation of persons with disabilities in leadership and workforce development programs.

These efforts continue today. If you, or someone you know, has an interest in learning more about employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, reasonable accommodations issues, special hiring authorities, and other challenges facing current and potential Federal employees, there are numerous resources available here in Stuttgart for both American citizens as well as host nation individuals.



Photo by Angelika Aguilar, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Dr. Aaron Deppisch hosts participants of USAG Stuttgart's quarterly Capital City Visitation Program in the plenary room of the Baden-Württemberg parliament building, March 13. The tour is free and open to all Stuttgart military community ID card holders 14 years and older. Participants are picked up at 8:30 a.m. at the Exchange bus stop on Panzer Kaserne in Böblingen. The tour lasts until 5 p.m. Dress is business casual and good walking shoes. The next tour date is May 23. Sign up by visiting www.stuttgartcitizen.com and searching CCVP.



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Ask a JAG: Client etiquette to help SLC help you

by Sgt. David A. McDonald
Stuttgart Law Center

Our job as front desk paralegals is to be the face of legal assistance. This means handling all tasks related to in-processing, vetting, researching and scheduling consultations for the garrison.

The Stuttgart Law Center has certain systems in place to maximize our efficiency as an office, regardless of any obstacles encountered. When there's a breakdown in that system, either by ourselves or clients, this subsequently affects clients. This means our clients will wait for their appointments longer, double-booking may occur or appointments may start late.

To limit the possibility of error, we ask clients to cancel appointments prior to the day of their appointment in the event of scheduling limitations, take a number when arriving for legal services, sign in for all legal assistance queries, and complete the intake sheets in its entirety for a consultation.

We ask that clients give us advance notice, when reasonable, of scheduling conflicts or cancellations so that we may open that time to other clients. In the case of appointments



Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Once you go through the scaffolding to get past the ongoing construction, this sign lets SLC clients know they're in the right place.

for German attorneys, we often have individuals seeking earlier appointments call back in the event anyone has cancelled. If you fail to cancel, this limits our ability to help others who may have qualifying emergency situations.

It is important that clients sign in and take a number so that we assist them in the order they arrived. This limits individual wait times and helps the staff divide client services amongst the staff. Also, it is our job to

send our client numbers to our unit's headquarters; inaccurate accounts of client traffic could result in either overstaffing or understaffing of the client services office.

We need all clients to complete intake sheets in their entirety to track who was seen on what date, because occasionally we're requested to complete memorandums for record. In that case, we need multiple points of contact for clients to verify information and dialogue between the staff

and the clients. To expedite client services, we need complete information for you and your spouse so it's easy for the attorneys to reach you and provide updates on your pending cases. Remember, your information is privileged and is always treated as such; it's only viewed by our personnel and appropriate authorities when applicable.

In summary, the SLC legal team needs your help so we can offer exceptional assistance by providing complete and accurate information prior to all consultations, every time. If you must cancel an appointment, please do so as far in advance as possible as a courtesy to other clients, and please sign in and take a number so that your legal assistance query is reflected on our records. We thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Legal Notice

This column is not intended as individual or specific legal advice. If you have specific issues or concerns, you should contact the Stuttgart Legal Assistance Office at 421-4152 or 0711-729-4152 or usarmy.stuttgart.21-tsc.mbx.slcla@mail.mil.



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NEWS BRIEFS



The taxman commeth

April 15 approaches rapidly, and the Stuttgart Tax Center reminds taxpayers to bring all of their W-2s, Social Security cards for all of your family's—not just the numbers—and other critical paperwork. Note, if you owe money, the two-month overseas extension for filing doesn't mean you won't pay interest on any taxes due by April 15. Call 421 421-1420 or 0711-729-1420, or email usarmy.stuttgart.21-tsc.mbx.tax@mail.mil.

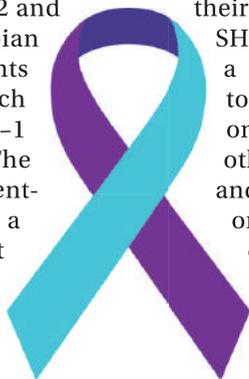
MOMC sidewalk sale

The award-winning Kelley Commissary will have an April Month of Military Child sidewalk sale, April 16-18 plus tours for garrison children enrolled in Child Youth Services. Kids can stop by the store to enter a coloring contest.

Suicide/Behavioral Health Symposium

Army Health Command Stuttgart-Behavioral Health and Army Substance

Abuse Program/Suicide Prevention Program will hold a symposium with senior leaders (E-7 and up, O-4 and up, GS-12 and up) at the Swabian Special Events Center, Patch Barracks, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., April 17. The symposium presenters are a colonel, a master sergeant and a sergeant first class who will tell their personal stories that highlight their behavioral healthcare experiences to help reduce the stigma of suicide and behavioral health treatment among senior leaders. Call 590-1615.



Take a class, save a life

The American Red Cross offers a pilot pediatric first aid course, 8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m., April 20 (\$45); and classes for adult and pediatric first aid/CPR/AED, 9 a.m.–noon, April 26 and May 7 (\$55). Call 431-2812 or 07031-15-2812 for more information.

SHARP Victim Advocate Workshop

A 3-day workshop for folks who have already attended the 80-hour SHARP course and would like to hone their skills takes place at Army Community Service (Bldg. 2915, Panzer

Kaserne), 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m., April 22-24. There will be speakers from CID, legal and medical to explain their roles in handling SHARP cases. This is a great opportunity to get some hands-on practice, meet others in the field and get a refresher on how to manage cases. If you're already credentialed, you can earn continuing education units by attending. Class attire is civilian clothes. Sign up with ACS.

Be at financial peace

Take control of your money, plan for your future, and transform your life. The Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University class teaches how to get out of debt, how to save for college and retirement, start an emergency fund and much more. Registration for anyone with post access has been ongoing for more than a month; classes start April 25 in the Panzer Chapel Fellowship Hall (Bldg. 2940) and continue on Thursday evenings, 6–8 p.m., until June 20. The class, childcare up to 4-years-old and dinner are all included free. Call the Family Life Chaplain at 431-3078 or 07031-15-3078.



No April forklifting

The 405th Logistics Readiness Center-Stuttgart forklift training scheduled for April 25-26 on Panzer Kaserne has been cancelled. LRC will advise the community of the next training opportunity—watch this space. Call 431-3420.

Wiki-wiki volunteers

Support USAG Stuttgart garrison volunteers by attending the 2019 Volunteer Recognition Ceremony in the Patch Community Club, 3–4 p.m., April 25. A mini-luau will follow in the Hawaii spirit of this year's theme. Participants

Monica Hansen
Attorney at Law
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mhansenlaw@gmail.com
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It's RB 'Incredible!'

USO brings the movie "Incredibles 2" to the Robinson Barracks Theater, 4 p.m., April 26. Someone in

attendance will receive their own copy of the film. Free family fun for all. Register to attend through the USO Stuttgart's website or Facebook page.

Counsel will approach the bench online

The Stuttgart Law Center online appointment system is available for clients. Use the USAG Stuttgart mobile app or

the USAG Stuttgart online appointment website. A request through the site doesn't make or confirm an appointment-clients who receive a confirmed appointment (pending confirmation of eligibility) will be contacted by a member of the staff. Also, the SLC will be closed April 26 and will reopen April 29.

DES wants you to know ...

Vehicle Registration will be closed for inventory, April 29, and moving to its new location April 30. Also, the Panzer Kaserne back gate will be closed around June 15 for up to five weeks for a new sliding gate; the project will work north towards the main gate.

May Day Nay Day!

May 1 is a German holiday. Expect a lot of offices to be closed or offer limited services. Watch the garrison Facebook page and the online Stuttgart Citizen for announcements.

Remembering the fallen

The Memorial Day Ceremony is set for 11 a.m.,

May 27, on Patch Barracks' Washington Square. Additional information, if any, will be in the News Briefs of the May 2019 issue of the Stuttgart Citizen.

Hear ye, hear ye

Over the next year, the garrison will conduct four community town halls, 6:30 p.m., to address concerns regarding housing and other issues. The town halls will take place at Robinson Barracks Chapel, June 27; Panzer Chapel, Sept. 23; Kelley Theater, Dec. 11; and Patch Chapel, March 26, 2020. Any changes will be announced here and online.

Troop 324 is for girls

The Boy Scouts of America now has Troop 324 for girls. Now all eligible youth ages, both girls and boys, ages 11-17, have the opportunity to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. Troop 324 meets at the Scout Hut (Bldg. 2352) next to the HUB on Patch Barracks. The troop invites girls ages 11-17. Meetings are Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8 p.m. It will have an outdoor activity monthly such as camping, hiking, canoeing, shooting, climbing, etc. Visit www.scouting.org/scoutsbsa to learn more about the program and read FAQs; for information about Troop 324, email T324membership@gmail.com.



Pie in the sky

The garrison BOSS program is seeking volunteer leaders to take a pie in the kisser on the 4th of July. Senior service members from command teams may volunteer for a time slot of their choosing to be the designated pie target. Contact the BOSS program through your unit's BOSS rep, ask the HHC USAG Stuttgart first sergeant or garrison command sergeant major to take on this mission. If you're not a BOSS member, ask them about that, too.

Get your motor running

The 2019 Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic Riding and Experienced Rider courses, required for service members to ride, take place at Stuttgart Army Airfield. The BRC dates are April 17 and July 25; the ERC takes place April 25, May 23, June 27, Aug. 1 and Sep. 26. Personnel must register online via US Army Traffic Safety Training Program Registration System.

Note: Registration is CAC-enabled for Soldiers; non-Army should contact the USAG Stuttgart Safety Office. The Installation Safety Office is in Bldg. 2948, rooms 302, 301 and 320, Panzer Kaserne. Call 431-3832/3133/3134. Civilians or family members needing training should call the rider mentor coaches at 431-2198 or 430-2226.

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Celebrate Month of the Military Child with USO Stuttgart

Story and photo by Sarah Kemp
Manager, USO Center-Stuttgart

USO Stuttgart is celebrating military kids all through the month of April.

It began April 1 with a visit from local author and mom of five military kids, Kim Roedl, who read from "Max Brinkley's Military Brat Mysteries: The Case of the Ding Dong Ditcher." The USO's regular story and craft time on April 2 featured books for military kids and crafts that were sure to melt the hearts of their parents. And coming up April 15, the first 30 kids to visit the USO will receive a purple dog tag and key chain, just in time for Purple Up! Day.

All month long, the USO will be accepting photo and video submissions of military children, including

teens, from the Stuttgart military community. On April 30, a random entry from all the video and photo submissions will be selected to win a prize.

ASL classes

The USO Center-Stuttgart recently offered evening classes in American Sign Language.

The instructor, Valerie Sultan, has deaf parents, and ASL is her first language. She's also a full-time sign language interpreter. In this ASL class, participants learned the letters and numbers of ASL, and also some vocabulary that will help them have basic conversations in ASL. Those who already knew ASL letters and numbers were encouraged to join the classes, as there's so much more to learn, plus it's a lot of fun and so useful.

Become a USO volunteer

Interested in making a difference in your community? Would you like to be a part of the USO family? Come to a USO Stuttgart Volunteer Orientation. Learn all about the history and purpose of the USO, as well as ways to get involved that work around your interests and schedule, then sign up for the events that you would like to participate in and let the fun begin.

Begin the volunteer registration process ahead of time from the comfort of your home by visiting volunteers.uso.org or logging into the USO Volunteer mobile app.

Visit the USO Center weekdays, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., to take classes, enjoy free WiFi, borrow free DVDs, browse free travel brochures and to sample the best popcorn on earth.



Valerie Sultan, a full-time sign language interpreter, teaches ASL to members of the Stuttgart military community.

Travel adventures for 23 years helps USO Centers in Germany

Story and photo by John Reese
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

When you arrive at the USO Center-Stuttgart, the first things you notice are the enticing aroma of fresh popcorn and a wall of tour brochures and maps. The USO's partner for travel, Interreisen, has been working with the USO for more than two decades.

The company, founded in 1996, donates 10 percent of its tour fees back to the USO; that 10 percent helps keep the popular USO Center-Stuttgart in operation.

"We are very proud to serve them. We have a very successful relationship over the many years," said company owner Oliver Wulff during a lunchtime lecture on traveling in Europe and beyond, March 19. "We trust each other, and that's very important in this business."

His travel talk drew a small crowd of spouses and their children to the USO. Wulff described popular travel destinations, answered travel questions and offered suggestions.

The two most recent trips, one to Croatia and other to Italy, took place at the beginning of the month, with both returning April 11. The company picks up adventurers from different U.S. military garrisons along the journey, offering family and group discounts to service members stationed in Germany.

"We know the secrets and the areas of every destination we go to," Wulff said. "That is important, especially when there are staus in traffic, so you can save time by taking other routes."

He told a story about a trip to Paris last Thanksgiving when the tour group voted to leave the city early just as the ongoing "yellow vest" protests were beginning, with demonstrators blocking roads and popular tourist sites. The company works with a travel insurance carrier very familiar to military

personnel that covers everything from illness or injury to the cancellation of the tour due to incidents such as in Paris, weather, terrorism within a radius of the tour areas, etcetera.

Important for community members, Wulff stressed his company offers English-speaking tour guides, not just escorts. However, Interreisen will be using a Chinese and Russian-speaking escorts/guides for upcoming trips.

"We don't have anybody who speaks Mandarin, so that's why we'll have the Chinese guides," Wulff said. "The same for Russia."

The USO Center-Stuttgart, with its wall of travel opportunities, maps, tips and more is located in Bldg. 2915, Panzer Kaserne.

(Editor's note: No federal endorsement implied.)



Ryann Hangsleben, USO Stuttgart, reads a name pulled from a box held by travel expert Oliver Wulff during a lunchtime travel briefing, March 19.

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Africa exhibition explores Germany's colonial past

By Moneé Luckey
Volunteer, USAG Stuttgart

The Linden-Museum Stuttgart, one of the leading museums of ethnology in Europe, presents Germany's colonial past in a new permanent exhibition of its African collections. "Wo ist Afrika?" (Where is Africa?), opened on March 16 to shed new light on the origin of the collection, the exhibit explores the colonial matrix of discriminatory narratives that continues to thrive today.

"It is time to change perspectives and leave the ethnocentric (or eurocentric) view behind," said museum spokesman Martin Otto-Hörbrand. "This exhibition is aimed at promoting inclusive ideas of citizenship based on a global notion of us. When looking at the objects, it should also be about breaking up an Africa image shaped by colonial stereotypes."

A significant part of the artifacts on display were acquired from Cameroon, the Congo Basin, Mozambique, Nigeria and Tanzania. The earliest acquisition took place in 1881, the last one in 2018. At the height of the European "Scramble for Africa" during the colonial era, many of these pieces entered the collection in the late 19th and the beginning of



Photo by Dominik Drasow courtesy of Linden-Museum Stuttgart

The Chinese-made motorcycle received its very personal decoration in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

the 20th century. Wo ist Afrika? examines these hidden stories and history inscribed into these objects and what they can mean for the African culture in present day and beyond.

There are approximately 400 objects in the collection. One of the most unique pieces in the show are an ivory hip pendant carved in honor of Queen Mother Idia. It was

taken from the private quarters of Oba Ovonramwen by the British Army during the destruction of the capital of the Benin Kingdom in 1897. Another very special object is the letter written by King Ibrahim Njoya (ca. 1860 - 1933) in Foumban (West Cameroon). It documents an early version of Shumom, the writing system that he invented for the

Bamum language.

Wo ist Afrika? opens up a space of cultural creativity and encourages dialogue which allows visitors to near themselves to a wider understanding of the culture.

Otto-Hörbrand said, "We invite visitors to take time in the presence of some of the precious material testimonies of historical civilizations whose lessons are still to be fully acknowledged; inquire into their present legacies in Africa and all over the world; and interrogate the specific contexts and relationships that have brought specific objects here."

Special programming in conjunction with the exhibit will take place throughout the year. On April 20, the "Pantsula: Urban Dance Art from South Africa" event will showcase the worldwide art form during an evening performance. Guided tours are also planned to bring the exhibit to life.

The exhibit texts in the Wo ist Afrika? gallery is bilingual (German/English).

On Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., admission to the permanent exhibition is free for all visitors.

For more information about the exhibit, visit www.lindenmuseum.de.

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Don't wait! Stuttgart drivers urged to renew registration up to 75 days early

Public Affairs
USAG Stuttgart

Between June and August of this year, the Stuttgart Directorate of Emergency Services Vehicle Registration Office on Panzer

Kaserne expects more than 2,000 privately owned vehicle owners will need to renew their registration.

Because this timeframe also coincides with the peak Permanent Change of Station (PCS) season, customers are urged to check their

registration expiration dates now and make appointments as early as 75 days in advance of their renewal date. Renewing early will not change the date of the vehicle's original registration date.

The garrison encourages

advance planning for all-important services like vehicle registration, etc. Appointments can be made on the USAG Stuttgart mobile app: click "Appointments" or visit www.stuttgartcitizen.com/appointments.

Fatal facts to know about distracted drivers

By Ruben Santiago
Directorate of Emergency Services
Police Chief USAG Stuttgart

Today, an average of eight people will die in the U.S. and 1,161 will be injured in crashes that involve a distracted driver.

More than 160 billion text messages were sent in the U.S, including Puerto Rico, Guam and 14 more territories, every month during 2018. Drivers in their 20s make up 27 percent of the distracted drivers in fatal crashes. Drivers engaging in visual-manual subtasks associated with the use of hand-held phones and other portable devices, such as reaching for a phone, dialing and texting, are three times more likely to be involved in a vehicle crash than non-distracted drivers; 47 percent of all adults who text say they have sent or read messages behind the wheel.

April is Distracted Drivers

Awareness Month, and the USAG Stuttgart Provost Marshal's Office will participate in the annual distracted driver's awareness campaign in an effort to help educate and safeguard the Stuttgart military community. Throughout April, the Military Police will conduct operations on all installations to address violators of Army Regulation 385-10, para. 4-E, about cellphone use while driving.

Help keep our community safe by adhering to the rules and regulations and reporting to the MPs by calling-but not while driving-07031153102, or use the Garrison App button "REPORT TO MP." Do not let "SMH" be your last words.

(Note: Stats provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.)



Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Emergency responders prepare to extract a simulated victim from a damaged vehicle during a demonstration on Panzer Kaserne. Don't be a distracted driver.

Army Regulation 385-10, para. 4-E

"Vehicle operators on DOD installations and operator of Government owned vehicles, on or off the installation, will not use cellular phones or other hand-held electronic devices unless the vehicle is safely parked or they are using a hands-free device. Government-supplied electronic equipment that may be used for text messaging or other hand-held uses is prohibited for use by DOD personnel while driving any vehicle, whether or not on official Government business. The only exceptions to this prohibition are emergency responders (such as military police, ambulance, fire emergency, EOD and HAZMAT responders) while in the performance of their official duties."

Permanent Registration Renewal Checklist

The sponsor must be present if the registration does not list a joint owner. Spouses may reregister a vehicle if they have a power of attorney authorizing the them to do so.

- ✓ DOD ID Card
- ✓ U.S. Forces Certificate of License or Temporary U.S. Forces Certificate of License (AE Form 190-1G)
- ✓ Renewal application from Motor Vehicle Registration (AE Form 190-10) or Application for Motor Vehicle Registration and Allied Transactions (AE Form 190-1AA) POV
- ✓ Must be inspected:
 - On-post inspection within 75 days
 - German TÜV inspection within 30 days
- ✓ Application must be stamped by on-post inspection station. If using German TUV, vehicle year, color, make, model and chassis (VIN) number must be on the form.
- ✓ Credit/debit card, check or money order for registration payment (\$35 per year of registration. A maximum of two years registration is available)

Information provided IAW AER190-1 and can be referenced at <http://www.eur.army.mil/aepubs/>



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Photos © Dirk Kittelberger
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

PHCE offers guidance on how to stay tick-free this year

By Michelle Thum

Public Health Command Europe

As people spend more time outdoors, so do many insects and pests. Among those are ticks, which can carry several potentially serious diseases. One of the most common is Lyme disease.

According to Public Health Command Europe officials, a person with Lyme disease may develop fever, headache, fatigue and a skin rash. This rash is sometimes referred to as a "bull's-eye" rash because it is red and circular in appearance.

In most cases, Lyme disease can be treated with antibiotics. However, if the disease is left untreated, it can worsen and cause a number of serious problems, to include, facial paralysis and pain and numbness in the hands and feet.

"Ticks can be active on winter days when the ground temperatures are above 45 degrees Fahrenheit but they are most prevalent during warmer days," said Maj. Amanda Cline, Chief of Entomology at PHCE.

So what do you do if you find a tick on you or your pet? Cline says ticks can be safely removed with tweezers.

"The first thing to do is to make sure you remove it properly," she said.

Where to look for ticks

Prevention is also important in protecting yourself and your family. Here are five tips to prevent tick bites:

1. Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants when in wooded areas.
2. Wear closed shoes -- no bare feet or sandals.
3. Use an insect repellent with DEET.
4. Don't walk through bushes or tall grass. Stay on marked trails, where possible
5. After being outdoors, check for ticks. Shower and change your clothes.

When checking your pet for ticks, don't forget to check these five common places ticks hide on dogs:

1. Under the collar: Make sure to remove your dog's collar from time to time and inspect for ticks.
2. "Private" areas: Make sure to check in the groin area between the back legs and underneath the tail. These are popular spots for ticks to hide.
3. Inside of Ears: All the little crevices inside of an ear make it a popular spot for ticks to hang out.
4. Between Toes: Spots like between the toes are cozy and not something that's easy to see - making it a perfect place for a tick to setup camp.
5. Near the Eyelids: It can be tricky to tell, which is why around the eyes is one place ticks go unnoticed. If you're not sure, it's best to consult with the Veterinary Treatment Facility, Bldg. 2996, Panzer Kaserne. For more information on tick-borne illnesses and how to protect yourself and your family, please talk with your primary care manager or your pet's veterinarian.

"Forget everything you have heard about removing ticks before now. All you need is a pair of sterile tweezers and simply pull at the mouthparts, or as close to the skin as possible, in a slow steady manner. Following removal, you should apply alcohol or an antibiotic ointment."

Protecting yourself from ticks is important, but it is equally important not to forget about your furry family members.

doubles the odds that humans will find a tick on themselves," said Maj. Stephanie Kennedy, PHCE Regional Veterinary Clinical Medicine Officer and Consultant.

PHCE recommends that pets be treated for ticks year round and encourages pet owners to talk with their local veterinary treatment facility to determine the best tick prevention for your pet.

"Along with tick prevention, pet owners are encouraged to check their pets for ticks daily, especially after they spend time outdoors,"

Kennedy said.

PHCE offers a free tick surveillance program which identifies and tests the ticks for the military and beneficiaries.

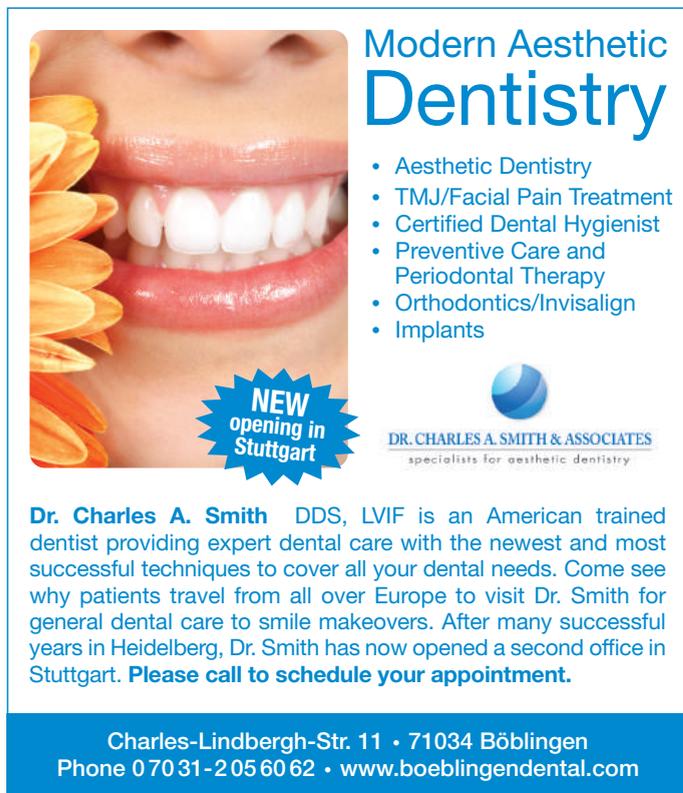
If you do find a tick on any member of your family, once removed, take the tick to your local medical treatment facility or for your furry friends, to the veterinary treatment facility. Be sure to have information on where you may have been bit and the date it was removed, so PHCE can capture the information. Please do not send or bring ticks directly to PHCE.



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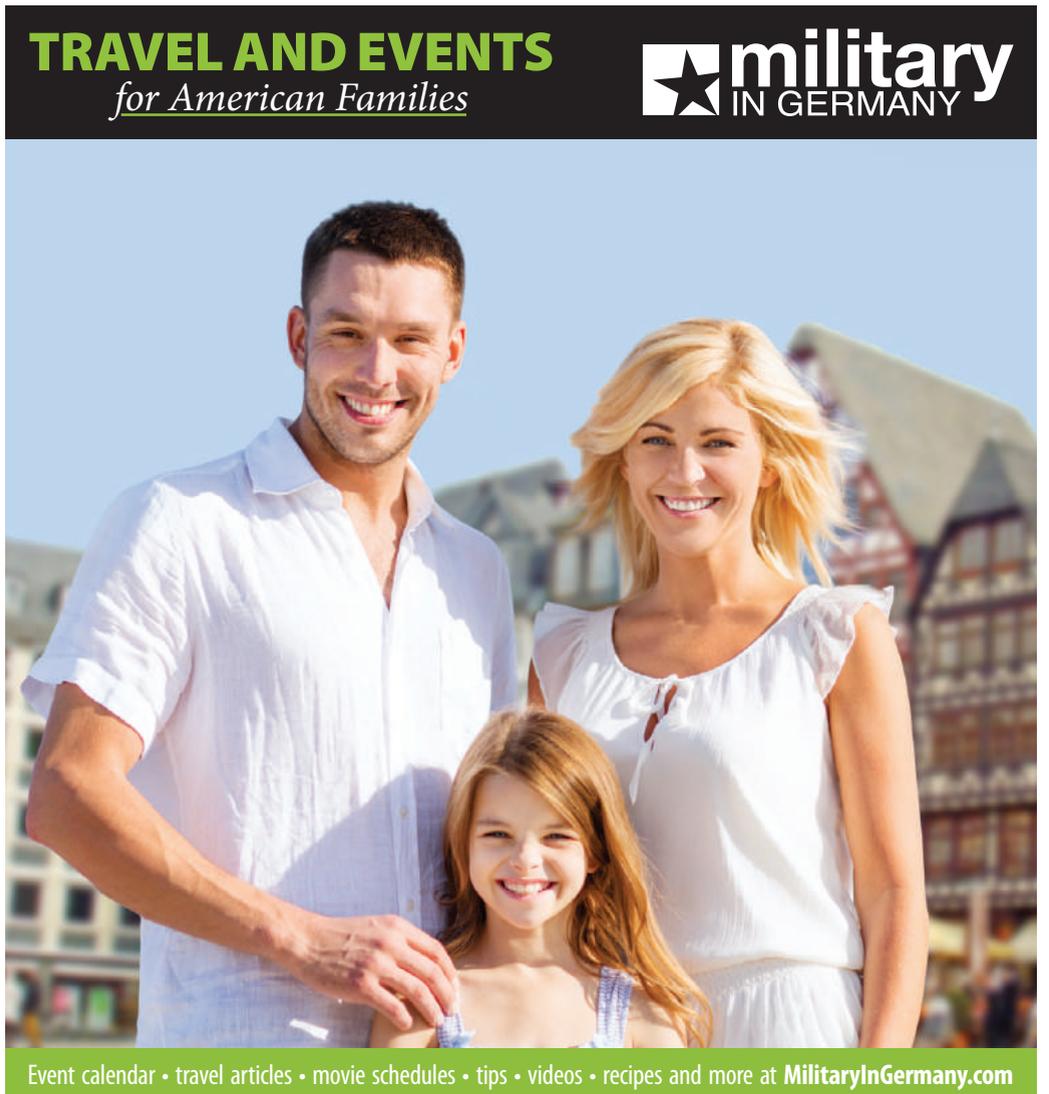
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Red Cross hosts international youth campaign

Story and photo by Erin Kahl Owsley
Regional Program Specialist
American Red Cross-Stuttgart Station

The Stuttgart International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Youth Action Campaign (YAC) that officially began Jan. 21 continues into April for the Red Cross Stuttgart Station.

The IHL YAC is an annual program that educates youth 13-24 thirteen to twenty-four, about IHL and teaches them to design their own campaigns to educate their communities about IHL through peer-to-peer education. The training by coordinators traveling from Ramstein and the United Kingdom began in February as 22 Stuttgart youths gave up a day of school holiday



Stuttgart youth review the basics of understanding IHL, Health Care in Danger and how to kickstart both their social media and activity campaign at the American Red Cross-Stuttgart Station for the day of training

to participate.

"Peer-to-peer education is an amazing way to educate young people on

International Humanitarian Law while they are still forming their core values," said coordinator Lacie Clark.

During the one-day training, the youth learned about the history of IHL and the relationship between the American Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross and its founders. The basics of IHL and Health Care in Danger were taught and the youth discussed why it is important to educate their peers on IHL. Participants built mini-campaigns and presented them to their peers, and brainstormed the building their own campaign.

"Attending this training and learning about the real-life consequences of Health Care in Danger motivates me to spread awareness in any way I can," said Keona Kaneshiro, IHL team lead. "It isn't often we are exposed to what goes on outside our

own lives, and taking action allows us to step outside of what we know in order to help the thousands affected."

It is exciting to see that so many young people are raising their hands to spread the word about IHL and Healthcare in Danger and the American Red Cross-Stuttgart Station looks forward to seeing the campaign designed by the Stuttgart youth.

The program will conclude for the year with two youth from the European Division being selected to attend the YAC summit in Washington, DC, in July.

To learn more about this program and the many others, visit the American Red Cross-Stuttgart Station in Bldg. 2948, 3rd Floor, Panzer Kaserne, or call 431-3054/2812.

'Military Kids Can!' art, essay contest open until April 30

By Susan A. Merkner
U.S. Army Installation
Management Command

Entries may be submitted until April 30 for the 2019 "Young Lives, BIG Stories" contest sponsored by U.S. Army Installation Management Command G9 Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

The essay and artwork contest is open to active-duty Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Army spouse or U.S. Army retiree children in preschool through grade 12.

The annual contest coincides with the April observance of Month of the Military Child. This year's contest theme is, "Military Kids Can!"

Children are encouraged to answer the question: What does it mean to you to be a military child?

Drawings may be submitted by children ages 3 through third grade. Written submissions may be entered by children in grades four through 12.

Entries are judged for content, form, presentation of the main idea and creativity. Prizes are given for the winners of each of the age categories and one overall winner.

Month of the Military Child is observed to



Artwork by Margaret Gacutan of USAG Bavaria Grafenwoehr was among the winners in the 2018 Young Lives, BIG Stories contest.

recognize and honor military children for their contributions and support to Soldiers and the Army mission. The observance reiterates the Army's commitment to Soldier and

Family readiness and resilience, to excellence in Child and Youth Services, and to a supportive environment where children can thrive. MOMC was established in 1986.

Submissions, which must be accompanied by an entry form completed and signed by a parent, legal guardian or sponsor, will be accepted online and by mail from April 1 to 30.

Find guidelines and more information at <https://www.armymwr.com/programs-and-services/family-assist/month-military-child/young-lives-big-stories/ylbs-faq>.

'Purple Up! Day' coming to DoDEA Europe schools April 17th

Public Affairs
USAG Stuttgart



April, the Month of the Military Child, is a time to applaud military families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome.

The Department of Defense Education Activity-Europe will celebrate Purple Up Day, April 17, where wearing the color purple is encouraged. The tradition began with 4-H clubs in New Hampshire that developed the "Purple Up! for Military Kids" initiative in 2011 while working with the children of deployed National Guardsmen and reserve component members, and they saw Purple Up! as a way to build awareness in their communities. Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military.

(Editor's note: Information provided by DoDEA.)

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German students visit Stuttgart Elementary School

Story and photo by John Reese
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

A hundred students and their teachers marched up the hill from Max Plank Gymnasium to Panzer Kaserne to experience a day with their counterparts at Stuttgart Elementary School, March 19.

"They're partnered with the 4th grade team in four classes," said School Liaison Officer Brian Pappas.

Prior to the visit, the young German and American scholastic diplomats got to know each other as pen pals and were paired-up in groups of 25 each from both schools to rotate between different 4th grade blocks of instruction. The SES teachers conducted the same activities for the four groups of 50 combined German-American students.

"One group might get a dramatic play theater activity," Pappas said. "It is an opportunity for them to get to know each other."

Shortly after settling in to their first classes, the Max Plank students joined SES and Stuttgart High for a fire drill. The two schools and the guest teachers and students joined the orderly exodus to their parking lot assembly areas while SES Principal Sonja Rodriguez observed and blocked traffic coming onto the schools' campus. Once the all-clear was given, the German students resumed their round-robin of classes.

"I think that it's really great, because I get to know people who speak different languages, and I get to meet them and find out how it's like at German school," said SES student Samantha Moeser.

Max Plank student Alara Ockam, agreed, answering in English what she thought about the day.

"I think it's actually cool to meet other students at the school," Ockam said. "They don't speak my language, so it's kind of hard to speak with them,



Students from nearby Max Plank Gymnasium join their SES counterparts for a fire drill during their visit, March 19.

but it's fun to meet other people."

The visiting students finished out the school day with their new

American friends, with the possibility of a reciprocal future visit by SES students to their school

Girls boost Robinson Barracks Boys Scouts of America Troop 113

By Holly DeCarlo-White and Sabrina Wilson
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

After more than 100 years, the Boy Scouts of America program has updated its policy to a gender-neutral format, meaning boys and girls can now join a troop-together-in their communities.

In February, the name of the organization was updated to reflect the change to "Scouting BSA." The impact was positive for Scout troops that were otherwise struggling for membership, such as Troop 113 on Robinson Barracks. Scoutmaster Peter Field described the troop's recent growth spurt due to the change in policy.

"We were able to barely hang on here ... luckily, lately we have gone through a recent growth spurt with

new Scouts either coming up from the Cub Scouts, moving to the area, or BSA national has recently changed policy and we have the addition of female scouts," Field said.

The troop added its first three female Scouts: Emeline Anderson, Lily Field and Lillian Miller.

Anderson joined scouts for the opportunities it provides and to be closer to her brother, who is also a Scout. Field and Miller became Scouts for other reasons.

"I joined for the opportunities to build upon my skills and to learn more about teamwork and leadership," Lily Field said.

Miller joined the Scouts to participate in more activities, and joked about the perception of the Girl Scouts making bracelets vs. the Boy Scouts shooting bows and arrows. She is

looking forward to projects involving "robotics, and anything digital."

"I am a big fan of tech," Miller said.

A recent project of the newly integrated troop was community service at the RB Zentrum (RBZ).

"We are doing a deep clean of the RBZ, helping to clean it up, mop, wipe it down, and give it some love," said Drake Field, senior patrol leader for Troop 113. "The whole point of Boy Scouts is it was founded not just as something to benefit young men—and now women—but also to help benefit the communities that these young men and women live in. We've all come to the RBZ for celebrations and all sorts of events. It deserves a bit of restoration."

Troop 113 currently has 10 members, with four on-boarding soon. Peter Field is also the Cub Scouts' cubmaster on RB.

"We currently have 21 Cub Scouts, which for the last year have included females, but there's not many yet," Field said. "We are always looking for more to join the great program, to see the opportunities that we have, to experience the things that we can over here, especially with being stationed in a unique place like Germany. It's a great program including all families now so we are really excited."

Drake Field, who has been a Scout since the first grade, described his enjoyment growing up as a Scout, including unique experiences both in America and Europe.

"Large campouts and activities with multiple different troops, such as the Normandy trips where you meet all the international Scouts ... also the inter-camps, you get to meet a lot of Scouts from other countries, such

as Poland, Czechoslovakia, France, Belgium, Germany and the Ukraine," Drake said. "This year there is a camp in Croatia ... last year, the summer camp was in a volcano in Italy!"

The addition of females certainly is nice, especially with Troop 113, now being the largest in membership since he has been here, Drake explained.

"We can accomplish more with more members ... we can have more patrols and more opportunities for leadership," Drake said.

(Editor's note: Community volunteer Sabrina Wilson is a regular contributor to the Stuttgart Citizen.)



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<p>SPECIAL EVENTS IN APRIL</p> <p>SAT APR 13TH: LIVE "MAYER" LIVE PARTY HITS</p> <p>SAT APR 20TH: LIVE "MALLETT" LIVE PARTY ROCK COVERS</p> <p>SAT APR 27TH: LIVE "SUNBURST" LIVE ROCK N POP</p>	<p>SPECIAL EVENTS IN MAY</p> <p>SAT MAY 4TH: LIVE "INTEAM" LIVE ACOUSTIC PARTY HITS</p> <p>SAT MAY 11TH: LIVE "GARDEN OF DELIGHT" LIVE CELTIC ROCK</p> <p>SAT MAY 18TH: LIVE "MADISON BOW" LIVE PARTY HITS</p> <p>SAT MAY 25TH: LIVE "KARAOKE" THE BEST KARAOKE PARTY IN TOWN!!!</p>
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Grappling with trauma by maintaining a trusted inner circle

By Ch. (Col.) Michael T. Klein
Command Chaplain
United States Africa
Command

The last eight days of February 2019 were absolutely horrific for me. A legend in the Stuttgart military community, Col. William H. Shaw III (formerly of the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group and Special Operations-Europe) took his life in Florida.

Shaw, nicknamed "Wild Bill," made an incredible investment in my life and career from 1997 to 1998 at Panzer Kaserne. He shaped, scoped, and set the conditions for my success that would trickle, reach and saturate my Army service through the decades. The news so colossally shook me and pierced the core of my soul.

Immediately, I thought of the hundreds of lives he impacted-many still living and serving in the Stuttgart military community: How were they feeling? How were they coping? What was their mental, emotional and spiritual state? I immediately felt a sense of urgency to gather as many as possible and honor the memory of Wild Bill. But simultaneously, I was hurting inside, I was crushed, I was depressed!

The key to surviving trauma is maintaining an inner-circle of trusted individuals. These are personnel whom you can express 100% transparency and honesty... without threat of gossip or betrayal.

Proverbs 11:14 states, "Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance on counselors there is safety."

Proverbs 19:20-21 states, "Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future. Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand."

I can personally testify that my Panzer Brothers-now most out of uniform and a few still continuing to march-were my lifeline! They offered incredible and therapeutic counsel, encouragement and wisdom to my weary battered soul.

In the end, we all gathered to celebrate the life and legacy of Col. Shaw. Most importantly, I think we gained the tools and acumen to conduct personal life and risk assessments, re-establish key and critical points of contact to mitigate repeat trauma in this dimension.

RSO special service schedule for April

Catholic Services

April 18 - Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper with Washing of the Feet and Adoration, 6 p.m., Patch Chapel

April 19 - Good Friday Stations of the Cross, 4:30 p.m., Patch Chapel; Good Friday Service, 5:30 p.m., Patch Chapel

April 20 - Easter Vigil, 8 p.m., Panzer Chapel

April 21 - Easter Sunday (regular services), 9 a.m., Patch Chapel; noon, Robinson Barracks Chapel; 5 p.m., Patch Chapel

Jewish Services

April 19 - Passover, 6 p.m., Panzer Chapel Annex (If attending, please send an email to: info@stuttgartjewishcommunity.com)

Protestant Services

April 19 - Good Friday Service, 6 p.m., Robinson Barracks Chapel

April 21 - Easter Sunday (regular services)

All regular scheduled services will take place at their normal times and locations. Please note the location and time of Catholic Daily Mass changed April 1. The new schedule is:

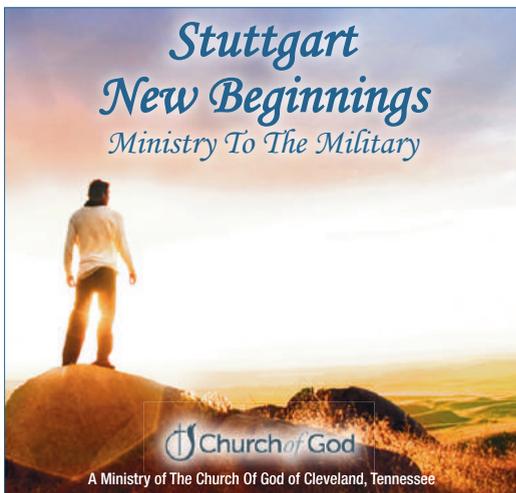
Monday, 11 a.m. at Panzer Chapel: Adoration and Mass

Tuesday, 11:45 a.m. at Patch Chapel: Mass

Wednesday, 11:45 a.m. at Kelley Theater: Mass

Thursday, - 11:45 a.m. at Patch Chapel: Mass

For more information, call 431-3079 or email usarmy.stuttgart.id-europe.mbx.rso-events@mail.mil.



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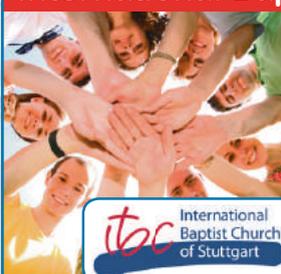
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CYS wrestlers finish season at Stuttgart tourney

Story and photos by Larry Reilly
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Wrestlers from seven IMCOM Europe garrisons gathered at Stuttgart High School for the fourth and final Child and Youth Sports wrestling tournament of the year, March 16.

The 150 wrestlers, all between the ages of eight and 14, competed in three bouts in their respective weight categories. As many as five matches took place simultaneously, with bouts consisted of three one-minute periods; according to some wrestlers, it wasn't an easy minute.

"Wrestling is probably the hardest sport I have done this year," said 11-year-old Gavin Slack, who weighed in at 79 pounds and went undefeated during his in his second year as a wrestler. "I plan on continuing wrestling because I think wrestling is a really good sport for me."

Slack isn't the only Stuttgart youth who enjoys wrestling; an overwhelming number of wrestlers sought to join



Dominick Smith locks onto his opponent during the CYS wrestling tournament, March 16.

the Saber Cat Wrestling team.

"Wrestling is a very popular sport in Stuttgart, and it is evident as the team's roster of 60 fills up on the first day of sign-ups, which usually results in a waiting list of 20 or more each year," said Kelly Just, Saber Cat head coach. "Stuttgart also has a local wrestling team for ages six and seven."

Just described wrestling as a physically demanding, yet very rewarding, sport.

"The sport requires the 3Ds: desire, dedication and discipline. The sport

also helps wrestlers to learn sportsmanship, how to set and accomplish goals and learn what it takes to be part of a team," Just said. "This is an individual sport that is one on one, but a team sport in that you cannot get better without a good teammate."

After thinking about his accomplishments this season, Slack echoed Just's teamwork statement.

"Going undefeated is a major accomplishment to me," Slack said. "But I probably wouldn't have made it without the support from my teammate,



Having pinned his opponent, undefeated wrestler Gavin Slack awaits the referee's count.

Max, my coaches and my family,"

The CYS wrestling season runs from January to March, but the lessons learned on and off the mat continue for a lifetime.

"I believe the sport of wrestling really helps to prepare young athletes for the game of life," Just said. "I stress to my wrestlers that people may judge you as a good wrestler during your match. I judge them as a great wrestler by their actions after their match—win or lose—if they display good sportsmanship."

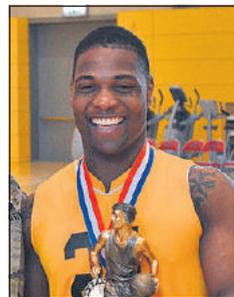
Stuttgart takes gold again at 2019 IMCOM basketball championship

Story by Caitlin Obländer
Community Recreation Division
USAG Stuttgart Family & MWR

The USAG Stuttgart Varsity Men's Basketball Team played in the IMCOM Europe Varsity Basketball Championship at the Katterbach Fitness Center, Ansbach, March 29-31, and brought home both the championship and MVP awards.

Six teams representing five garrisons from across Europe participated in the tournament, with all teams playing five pool play games. The four best teams moved on to the single elimination tournament, with the final game between USAG Stuttgart and USAG Rheinland-Pfalz (Kaiserslautern). Stuttgart defeated Rheinland-Pfalz 55-53 with a go-ahead 3-point basket with 11 seconds left in the game to win the championship.

The team, led by head coach Steve Owsley, was comprised of active duty service members from throughout the USAG Stuttgart footprint. Tryouts for the team were held the beginning of March, giving



MVP Kevin Watson

the players a short time to practice and come together as a team before heading to Ansbach. This is the first time the garrison sent a team to this tournament, creating excitement for the players and the varsity sports program.

"Special thanks to USAG Ansbach Sports and Fitness," said Ken Wetherill, USAG Stuttgart Community Recreation. "They did an amazing job of having everything setup and ready to go."

The top three teams received



Photos by Chris Cornelison USAG Ansbach

With the score running neck and neck, Stuttgart took on K-Town in the IMCOM Europe Varsity Basketball Championship, March 29-31.

trophies to take back to their garrison. The MVP Award was presented to Kevin Watson, 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) of the Stuttgart team. The top two teams received championship medals presented by Col. Steven Pierce, commander, USAG Ansbach. All

Championship stats

Stuttgart scores are as follows:

Friday, March 29:
Hohenfels v Stuttgart: 0-2
Ansbach v Stuttgart: 38-43

Saturday, March 30:
Illesheim v Stuttgart: 38-51
Stuttgart v Kaiserslautern: 69-49
Stuttgart v Wiesbaden: 60-56

Sunday, March 31:
Stuttgart v Illesheim 56-53
Championship Game,
Stuttgart v Kaiserslautern: 55-53

First Place: USAG Stuttgart
Second Place: USAG Rheinland-Pfalz; Kaiserslautern
Third Place: USAG Wiesbaden

participants received a t-shirt for their participation.

(Note: John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs, contributed to this article. Additional information was provided by the IMCOM-Europe Sports Department.)



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