

Stuttgart Soldiers take on Warrior Pride Challenge

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

If drinking too much is the disease, Marianne Campano believes having a fun alternative is the cure.

As the Army Substance Abuse Program prevention coordinator for U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, Campano came up with "Warrior Pride Challenge," a pilot program which offers free recreational activities to service members in ranks E-5 and below — the most at-risk group for alcohol-related incidents. Other free events are open to the entire community.

"The premise behind the campaign is that if you get folks involved in more [alcohol-free] activities during high-risk drinking times, [then] at other times

too, they are less likely to make poor decisions," she said.

So, at 9 a.m. on July 23 and Aug. 6, ASAP outfitted 18 service members with paintball equipment and sent them out into the Panzer Local Training Area to get their game on.

"It was nice to get away from Call of Duty [video gaming] and do the real thing," said Pfc. Marc Papy, who is assigned to Special Operations Command Europe. Papy not only joined in a paintballing event, but volunteered to provide ideas for future events as part of a Warrior Pride working group.

"I got to see our ideas being put to use," he said of paintballing. "I'm looking forward to seeing some of our other ideas we put out ... like a barbecue."

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Soldiers carry full water jugs in the PT Triathlon July 27, one of several Warrior Pride Challenge events sponsored by U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Army Substance Abuse Program designed to prevent alcohol-related incidents in the community. ASAP is hosting several free Warrior Pride events, including paintballing, this summer for service members in ranks E-5 and below, in order to promote ways to have fun without the alcohol.

Martin Greeson



Members of the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Fire Department and Deutsches Rotes Kreuz (German Red Cross) demonstrate rescuing a victim trapped inside a crushed vehicle during the USAG Stuttgart Safety Day July 14 outside the Panzer Exchange. The event was hosted by the garrison Safety Office.



Photos by Brittany Carlson

Safety first

Community members take turns riding on a fire engine's aerial ladder and view a crushed car before a rescue demonstration during U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's annual Safety Day, held July 14 outside the Panzer Exchange. More than 230 community members attended the event, which also included a seat belt convincer and driving simulator. For more photos, visit www.flickr.com/photos/usagstuttgart.

Christoph Holderried (left), safety specialist with the USAG Stuttgart Safety Office, demonstrates how to use reaction test equipment for vehicle operators with Tesfai Wolde-Selassie, a budget analyst for the garrison, as part of the garrison Safety Day July 14.

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Volunteers make exercise lifelike

Stallion Shake, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's annual emergency preparedness exercise, looked like the real deal, thanks to German and American responders and volunteers.



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Kids go wild for VBS 'Pandamania'

The USAG Stuttgart Religious Support Office's VBS gave more than 300 children the chance to connect and build relationships with God, one another and VBS leaders.



Commander's Column*Take 'C.A.R.E' to learn about your new community*

Commentary by Col. Carl D. Bird
USAG Stuttgart commander

I want to take this opportunity to welcome all those who have PCS'd to the Stuttgart military community over the summer.



Col. Carl D. Bird

Moving a household is not easy — I know. My family and I have PCS'd 13 times. Our furniture has taken a beating, but we've been exposed to different cultures and experiences, and have made lifelong friends all over the globe. For us, it's been worth it.

I think you'll discover we've got a fantastic community here, and you'll find that Stuttgart and its surrounding communities are beautiful cities and villages steeped in rich history, with a wealth of cultural, recreational and entertainment opportunities.

But the reality is that making a smooth transition into a new community can be tough. Hope and I discovered early on that getting the kids and ourselves involved in community activities and volunteering always helped us to settle into each new duty station. I encourage you and your family to do the same.

One of the best ways to get comfortable in your new surroundings is by attending the C.A.R.E. Fair on Aug. 20.

Hope and I discovered early on that getting the kids and ourselves involved in community activities and volunteering always helped us to settle into each new duty station.

You can meet face-to-face with representatives from more than 60 community agencies and private organizations, and get on-the-spot answers to your questions on volunteering, housing, health care and more.

The C.A.R.E. Fair makes it really easy to meet people, find out what's available in the community and get involved. You can sign your kids up for the Piranhas Swim Team, learn about USO trips and join a parent-teacher organization without making countless phone calls or having to drive to three different installations.

And while it's a great way to get acquainted in the community, I'd also like to encourage our on-post residents to get out and meet their neighbors.

Block parties are a very positive and powerful way for people to connect with their neighbors to build stronger, more resilient and cohesive communities. So get together and organize one!

It doesn't have to be fancy. It can be a simple as

putting out a few lawn chairs, sodas and chips, and organizing some activities for the kids. Or you can pull out all the stops.

The point is to make connections within your immediate area. When you know people, you can exchange skills or resources, organize a book club or share car pool duties. You'll increase your sense of belonging, build community spirit, and I imagine that you'll have fun, too.

I hope you'll find your assignment here enjoyable and rewarding.

It won't take long for you to discover that the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart takes pride in providing outstanding service to everyone.

Whatever your status — Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine, Coast Guard, civilian, contractor or family member — we are committed to providing you the highest quality programs, facilities, and services available.

THE CITIZEN

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File Photo

Jeff Sweeney, right, antiterrorism/physical security officer for U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, hands out iWatch literature at the Antiterrorism/Force Protection Office's booth during last year's C.A.R.E. Fair.

C.A.R.E. Fair spotlights local services, clubs, organizations

By Susan Huseman

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

It's never easy settling into a new community. That's why if you've recently arrived to the Stuttgart military community, the C.A.R.E. Fair should be on your list of things to do.

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Community Activities, Registration and Education Fair, set for Aug. 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Panzer Shopping Mall on Panzer Kaserne, offers community members the opportunity to learn about the various programs and services available to them.

More than 60 garrison, fraternal and special interest organizations will be represented, from the Housing Office to the Stuttgart German-American Wandering Club to the Military Associated Stuttgart Home Schoolers, according to Martha Povich, the events manager for USAG Stuttgart Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

"The C.A.R.E. Fair offers community members the opportunity to connect with one another, our community resources and organizations, and share information. The event will help jumpstart a newcomer's entry into the best community in all of USAREUR. It will help them discover who makes up the fabric of what makes Stuttgart so great," Povich said.

Visitors to the fair will be able to learn about employment and volunteer opportunities, local banking services and how to save money with the Utility Tax Avoidance Program. Other groups, such as local Boy and Girl Scout troops, Parent Teacher Associations and the Patch Ski Club, will also participate.

Newcomers may discover some needed household items at the Family and MWR-hosted flea market.

"They may be able to find many items they need to set up their homes, such as transformers and 220-

volt kitchen appliances," Povich said.

The flea market will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the terrace outside of the Exchange. Interested participants can sign up for table space online at www.stuttgartmwr.com.

C.A.R.E. Fair participants*

- AFRICOM Family Readiness Group
- American Legion
- American Red Cross
- Army Community Service
- Army Substance Abuse Program
- Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Service
- Black Forest Quilters Guild
- Comprehensive Soldier Fitness
- Defense Commissary Agency
- EDIS and Car Seat Program
- Exchange
- Family and MWR
- German-American Women's Club
- Health, Dental Clinics, Tricare, Wellness Center
- Piranhas Swim Team
- Religious Support Office
- Retiree Support Office
- Scouting
- Sitzmarkers Ski and Board Club
- Stuttgart Military Community Eishockey Club
- Stuttgart Community Spouses Club
- Stuttgart German-American Chorus
- Stuttgart Select Soccer
- University of Maryland University College Europe
- USAG Stuttgart Fire Department
- USAG Stuttgart Housing Services Office
- USAG Stuttgart Antiterrorism Office
- USO
- Veterinary Clinic

* Because of space limitations, not all participants are listed.

News & Notes

EUCOM presents \$6,000 CFC-O check to USAG Stuttgart

On July 20, Rear Adm. Charles W. Martoglio, the U.S. European Command chief of staff, presented U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander Col. Carl D. Bird with a check for \$6,390.33, donated to the Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas last year by EUCOM service members to support garrison programs and organizations.

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

Don't abandon pets

If you are planning a PCS move, make sure your pet is not left behind. Ensure that all pets are current on vaccines and take them to get a physical exam a few days before travelling. If you're traveling outside of the U.S., check with the receiving country's embassy for pet importation requirements.

Pets can be shipped via some commercial airlines (visit the airline's website for details) or on a Space Available flight, as long as the owners are in a PCS status.

Never abandon your pet. If you are unable to bring it with you, find a friend to adopt it or take it to a local animal shelter.

If you find an animal on post you believe has been abandoned, call the Military Police at DSN 114/civ. 0711-680-114. For more information, call the Stuttgart Veterinary Treatment Facility at 431-2681/civ. 07031-15-2681.

Check electronic devices

While the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart command group has informed the Stuttgart military community that using wireless electronic devices without a CE logo is prohibited in Germany, there are still reports of serious disturbances at Robinsons Barracks.

To avoid fines, community members should ensure all of their electronic devices have the CE logo and discontinue using those that do not.

Kelley traffic pattern changes

Kelley Barracks has a new traffic pattern. To improve parking availability and traffic safety, Pine Strasse is designated as a one-way street, requiring traffic to flow west to east.

Kelley Family Housing residents can no longer turn right onto Pine Strasse at the four-way stop by the commissary, but must drive straight on to Ash Strasse to get to the Kelley main gate. Drivers exiting the large overflow parking lot must turn right towards Kelley Family Housing and the back gate.

Due to the addition of parking spaces on the sidewalk side of Pine Strasse, there is more pedestrian traffic. Drivers are urged to use extra caution, and pedestrians are requested to use the available sidewalks.

Patch DFAC closed weekends

Beginning Aug. 20, the Patch Dining Facility will no longer be open on the weekends. A 2010 study indicated that usage on the weekends drops off 80 percent while operational costs of meals more than doubles.

Ask a JAG

Editor's Note: Do you have a legal question you would like to see answered in a future edition of The Citizen? If so, contact "Ask a JAG" at jason.mckenna1@eur.army.mil.

Stuttgart Law Center

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

A: In general, successfully navigating German law doesn't require as much in-depth knowledge of the law itself as it requires using common sense. There are, however, differences you should know.

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

Further, unlike in the U.S., German contracts typically renew automatically unless one party informs the other within a certain time frame — typically three months before the contract is set to expire — that he or she does not desire the contract to be renewed.

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

Should you live off-post, and a person knocks on your door and asks to count the number of dogs you own, request that he or she show proper identification. Then, explain your status and possible exemption from the tax. Because people who are hired to go door-to-door are often unfamiliar with the NATO SOFA, you might nevertheless receive a letter assessing you with the tax. If received, bring that document to the Stuttgart Law Center where someone will help communicate to the proper authorities that payment is not warranted.

Finally, although Germany is known for its Autobahns and fast cars, also know that speed cameras are common throughout the country. If you are caught driving significantly above the speed limit, your driver's license may be subject to suspension. Likewise, running a red light in Germany may also result in suspension of your license and a mandatory fine.

This column is not intended as individual or specific legal advice. If you have specific issues or concerns, you should consult a judge advocate at 421-4152/civ. 0711-729-4152.



Martin Greeson

Soldiers compete in the laser shooting portion of the Warrior Pride PT Triathlon, held July 27 at the Panzer Local Training Area. This summer, USAG Stuttgart's ASAP is hosting a variety of Warrior Pride events aimed at reducing alcohol-related incidents by providing service members with free entertainment as an alternative to partying.

Warrior Pride

Continued from page 1

Warrior Pride activities already running through July and August included a Friday-night gaming session, and an early-morning PT triathlon, to deter participants from late night partying.

The events also show young enlisted service members that having a good time is not synonymous with getting drunk, Papy said.

"Most privates coming in don't understand the difference between binge drinking ... and just having a good time," he said. "[Warrior Pride] teaches you there is a difference."

The Warrior Pride Challenge is based on research conducted on American college campuses, which shows that engaging people ages 18-24 — the most "at risk" group for alcohol-related incidents — in fun events without alcohol is effective in reducing alcohol-related incidents, Campano said.

Warrior Pride Challenge gets its name from the Army's Warrior Pride ethos, which states that drug and alcohol abuse are "incompatible with military service."

"Our purpose is to reduce high risk behaviors, foster healthy habits, build community and reduce the negative incidents around alcohol," Campano said.

"To me, really engaging people like that and bringing them together to do something fun and ac-

tive goes beyond reducing risky behavior — it does boost morale," she added.

This was especially true the morning of July 27, when 24 Soldiers took part in the first Warrior Pride PT Triathlon, which included a two-mile run, water jug carrying and laser target shooting at the Panzer Local Training Area.

Despite the heavy rain, participants not only enjoyed the competition, but asked for more in the future.

"It's a good thing for Soldiers to get out and focus their energy toward something positive," added Capt. Forrest Payne, of Headquarters, Headquarters Company for USAG Stuttgart, who came to cheer on his unit. "It builds esprit de corps and show the community actually cares."

Perhaps most importantly, it gives service members a way to have fun without getting into trouble, said 1st Sgt. Bobby York of HHC.

"Anything we do to keep them out of the barracks is a positive thing," he said. "Everything is right here for guys to stay active [and] stay engaged in the community."

Upcoming Warrior Pride events include a paintball day Aug. 20, and a PT pentathlon Sept. 22.

For more information, visit the USAG Stuttgart Warrior Pride Challenge (SWPC) Facebook page, or call ASAP at 431-3233/2530/civ. 07031-15-3233/2530.

German 'trick' class geared to shift workers

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Shift workers who enroll in a college course may find it difficult to attend every class session. After all, college terms and work schedules are rarely in sync.

That's why the Panzer Education Center and University of Maryland University College Europe are offering a German language course tailored to shift workers.

This fall, UMUC will offer Elementary German I twice a day so that shift workers can freely alternate from lunch time or tea time sessions.

The class is billed as a 'trick' class because "at one time, the military referred to shift duty as trick duty," said Education Services Specialist Michael O'Beirne.

The class will be offered Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on Panzer Kaserne and from 5:15-6:30 p.m. on Patch Barracks. The same instructor will teach both classes.

O'Beirne said while students will enroll in a specific class time, they will not need to coordinate with the instructor if they need to vary their class attendance between the two classes.

And if students need extra class time before finals, they are invited to attend both sessions. "It's very convenient for the service member," O'Beirne said.

Class starts Aug. 22. Registration ends Aug. 21. For more information, call the Stuttgart UMUC representative at 431-2303/civ. 07031-15-2303.

Culture College introduces newcomers to Stuttgart

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

Newcomer orientation at Army garrisons throughout Europe is becoming more streamlined.

As of Aug. 1, Installation Management Command-Europe replaced Headstart, the former in-processing cultural program used overseas for the past 40 years, with "Culture College," which will be offered through garrison Army Community Service offices.

The command is "amending the curriculum of the cultural adaptation program as part of its ongoing effort to eliminate redundant programs and improve efficiencies in all aspects of Army installation operations," said Jane Helfrich, ACS chief for IMCOM-E.

The main difference between the two programs is that Culture College is two days, compared to the three to five days Headstart ran in many garrisons.

In U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, Culture College is the new version of the ACS "SNO" program, or Stuttgart Newcomer's Orientation.

The class still teaches service members, civilians and family members about German customs, culture and transportation, but will focus less on language skills, according to Dan Adams, ACS Relocation Readiness Program manager for USAG Stuttgart and the Culture College program manager.

However, Culture College students will still learn basic phrases to use while shopping, eating in a restaurant and using public transportation.

Culture College offers a great overview of Germany for families who are on their first German tour, as well as returning families, Adams said.

By enrolling in the optional program, "you're setting yourself up for a successful tour," he said.

The class is also an opportunity for



A Stuttgart Culture College class, accompanied by instructor Edith Hoffmann (center, in brown) strolls the grounds of the Lichtenstein castle July 28.

new arrivals to make friends early on, he added. "You're meeting other new people in the same situation as you," he said. "That usually builds friendships ... that may last the entire tour."

USAG Stuttgart's Culture College is taught by Edith Hoffmann, a local national who has taught SNO here for 20 years. The class is currently offered every other week on Tuesday and Thursday, to accommodate Tricare's hospital tour for newcomers on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, Hoffmann highlights German history and culture, and teaches students the German alphabet, numbers, commonly used phrases and how to count money. She also describes the public transportation system and helps students practice ordering food in German.

"It really helps, especially if you haven't had German before," Hoffmann said. "To the majority of people, it gives them some confidence."

Students' new skills are tested on Thursday, when they take a field trip

to downtown Stuttgart using public transportation.

"I'm not afraid to go to the train station by myself now," said Chris Bligh, a military spouse who attended Culture College July 26 and 28.

Students also visit a cultural point of interest, such as the Lichtenstein castle, and stop at the Ritter Sport factory in Waldenbuch on the way home, where each student receives two free chocolate bars, courtesy of the factory.

Just getting off post and seeing the sights makes enrolling in Culture College worthwhile, Bligh added. "I think it's a shame if people come here and don't explore. If you don't get off post, you're doing a disservice to yourself," she said.

Since Culture College is replacing Headstart, the class itinerary may change in the near future to accommodate more students, Adams said. It will also follow a curriculum designed by IMCOM-E.

However, "we will consistently continue with the same offerings ...

cultural understanding, awareness and useful phrases," he said.

Stuttgart's Culture College is free, except for public transportation and food during the field trip, and is open to all ID cardholders age 12 and above. Free child care for up to 16 hours can be arranged in advance through Child, Youth and School Services.

The next Culture College will be Aug. 16 and 18 from 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne.

Those interested in German language skills can take the free ACS relocation German course, or enroll in structured classes offered through Stuttgart's United Service Organizations and education center.

For more information on Culture College, call ACS at 431-3362/civ. 07031-15-3362.

Editor's Note: Troy Darr, IMCOM-E Public Affairs Office, contributed to this article.



Edith Hoffmann (center, under sign) explains how to use the German bus system during a Stuttgart Culture College class field trip to downtown Stuttgart July 28.

Tax-free phone, Internet now available for some TKS customers

IMCOM Europe Public Affairs Office

Installation Management Command Europe officials recently announced that eligible U.S. Forces Telepost Kabel-Service customers will be able to use Value Added Tax forms to avoid paying VAT taxes on their landline telephone and Internet service beginning this month.

All U.S. Department of Defense personnel or ID cardholders who normally qualify for German VAT exemption will now also be able to save 19 percent on their monthly TKS bills.

The authorization to use VAT forms applies only to existing and new TKS services that run on a month-to-month basis. Contracts with a minimum duration of one or two years do not qualify for a VAT exemption.

"Using VAT forms for subscription types of services such as utilities and telephone service has not been possible in the past, at least in part because VAT forms are not authorized in conjunction with long-term contracts," said Rafael Wunsch, with Installation Management Command Europe. "Utilities and telephones are generally supplied based on such one- or two-year contracts."

The basic premise is that TKS adjusted their product offering so that the landline phone service can now be put on a month-to-month subscription rather than a one- or two-year contract.

"The way the program works is that U.S. Forces members provide TKS with a regular VAT form every month before the first of the month and TKS will then deduct the taxes from the bill at the end of that month," Wunsch said. "Members can also provide

TKS with multiple forms, but IMCOM Europe officials recommend providing not more than three forms in advance for this purpose."

For every month that a service member provides a VAT form before the first day of the month the value-added tax will be deducted. For every month that a service member does not provide a form (or send it in late) the VAT will be added to the bill.

Members are responsible for tracking, proper processing, and turn-in of used VAT forms. White and pink copies of the VAT forms turned in to TKS for processing tax-free landline phone service will be mailed back to the customer.

For more information, call the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart VAT Tax Relief Office at 431-3368/civ. 07031-15-3368.

New playgrounds to open on Kelley, RB this fall

Story & photo by Brittany Carlson
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Directorate of Public Works is working hard so community children can play even harder.

DPW is installing eight new playgrounds on Robinson Barracks and two new playgrounds on Kelley Barracks, replacing the 15- to 20-year-old models with more durable, safe, environmentally friendly and creative versions.

"For all of the playgrounds on RB and Kelley, the equipment was pretty old and outdated, so we decided to replace them all," said Anja Reusch, DPW engineering technician and project manager.

The playgrounds are set to start opening this fall, beginning with the Kelley playgrounds and three on RB.

The installation is part of an Army-wide effort to ensure service members and families have a quality of life that matches the service they provide, according Col. Carl D. Bird, USAG Stuttgart commander.

"We're building these playgrounds so that our kids can have a safe environment in which they can have fun in the community," he said. "They're the newest, latest, safest playgrounds on the market."

Each playground has a rubber-like safety surface, which must be poured and cured in warm weather. This is why the playgrounds are being installed during the spring and summer, Bird added.



A contractor shovels cement at the Everglades playground on Robinson Barracks — one of eight new playgrounds on RB set to begin opening this fall.

The playgrounds on RB are built to represent different American geographical themes, such as Hawaii, Grand Canyon, Prairie and Everglades.

For example, the Everglades playground (behind Buildings 178-9) will include grass-covered structures and a three-meter boat surrounded by tall grass.

Each RB playground is geared toward multiple age groups, from toddlers to school-aged children, with a

variety of sandboxes, slides, climbing areas and tire swings.

Kelley Barracks will receive one playground for school-age children that includes a climbing structure, and another for toddlers and preschoolers with a small race track.

"We tried to do that on all playgrounds, where we have all age groups included," Reusch said.

The playground equipment is made in the U.S., but meets both German and

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission safety standards.

The most important safety element in each playground is the safety surface, which will help prevent children from falling and getting scraped, Reusch said.

The playgrounds are also environmentally and fiscally friendly. Many items are made from recycled materials or plastic, which don't need to be replaced as often. In addition, the safety surfaces will allow water to drain back into the ground (unlike asphalt).

The playgrounds have been in the works for close to two years, including planning, Reusch said, so the final result has been long-awaited by families on RB and Kelley.

"We are very much focused on giving people a good feeling and a home they can take pride in," Reusch said.

Construction update

There are several other construction projects ongoing or coming soon from DPW at RB, according to DPW officials.

Most of the roads in family housing areas will be repaved by the end of the year. Parking spaces will be added to stairwell apartment buildings as needed, so that there are two assigned parking spaces per apartment.

The new access control point, currently under construction, will also be completed this fall. When funding becomes available, a pedestrian access point will be installed near the RB Chapel.

Help Stop Suicide

If you or someone you know has thoughts of suicide, call the USAG Stuttgart Military Police at **430-5262** civ. 0711-680-5262.

They will connect you to the appropriate resources.

Visit The Citizen's archives at www.stuttgart.army.mil

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Fight terrorism: know how to report, react

By Shay Edwards

USAG Stuttgart Antiterrorism Office

August has been designated by the Department of the Army as Antiterrorism Awareness Month. In the spirit of the month, Stuttgart military community members are encouraged to take the time to learn how to deal with potentially dangerous situations.

Everyone should know how to report suspicious activity and how to react to an active shooter.

Community members should report all suspicious — not necessarily criminal — activity to the Military Police using iWatch, a neighborhood watch program in which Defense Department personnel and their dependants report suspicious activity, on or off post, by calling the Military Police. In the Stuttgart military community, the number is DSN 114/ civ. 0711-680-114.

Suspicious activity is an activity by a person or group of people that focuses intently on DOD personnel, installations or equipment without breaking any laws. Examples include photographing and filming DOD installations, asking questions about activities and the composition of personnel on post, or taking part in anti-American events off post.

If a vehicle is involved, it is important to record the complete license plate and contact the Military Police as soon as possible to make a report.

In the event of an active shooter, there are three ways to react: evacuate, hide out and take action.

Those in the immediate vicinity of an active shooter should first evacuate the outdoor area or building that the active shooter is in and get as far away as possible.

If a police officer is in the area during the evacuation, those fleeing should not grab the officer. Instead, they can help by pointing in the direction of the active shooter and continuing to move in the direction that the police officer came from.

Observers who know the number of shooters and types of weapons should tell the officer.

Those who are outside when the shooting starts should hide out by moving to a secured building with lockable doors and few windows. If the room has windows, they can draw the curtains to deflect attention.

Those who are in the same building as the shooter should hide out in a room with no windows or glass doors and lock the door. Then, they should find something to fight with, find cover and turn off the lights.

When people take cover indoors, they should ensure that no noise or light is inside the room that could draw attention to them. All electronic devices, such as televisions and radios, should be turned off. Then, someone should report the incident by calling the Military Police or the German police, if off post.

In Germany and in many other European Union countries, 112 is the emergency number for law enforcement, just as 911 is in the U.S.

Once the room is secure and police are notified, those still in the area should prepare to take action by finding at least one heavy object to throw and plan to attack the shooter as a group. Everyone should also try to stay hidden until law enforcement arrives.

For more information, visit www.at-awareness.org or www.stuttgart.army.mil and select the emergency manager tab.



photos.com

Community members can help prevent terrorism by reporting all suspicious activity to the Military Police through the iWatch program, by calling DSN 114/ civ. 0711-680-114.

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Wild times at Stuttgart Vacation Bible School

Story & photos by Susan Huseman
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Summer means a lot of things to a lot of people. For Caspian Thompson, 6, summer means Vacation Bible School.

"He went last year and loved it. He's been counting down the days for this year," said Erin Thompson, Caspian's mother, as she dropped him off at the Patch VBS on July 29.

Caspian is not the only Thompson with a high regard for VBS. "We seriously love it. It reinforces what we're trying to teach at home," she added.

More than 300 children in preschool to fourth grade attended the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Religious Support Office-hosted nondenominational VBS. Two sessions were offered: a morning session at Patch Elementary School, held July 25-29, and an evening session at Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle School, held Aug. 1-5.

This year's theme, "Pandamania," took the children on an adventure into a bamboo forest where they experienced "how wild God is about them" through Bible stories, activities, music and challenges.

The contemporary curriculum included multimedia slide shows and videos; infectious, catchy praise songs; skits and crafts, all designed to reinforce a daily Bible teaching or "Bible point."

One-hundred and twenty youth and adult volunteers kept 246 children at the Patch VBS in constant motion, as they moved in multi-age "crews" from station to station every 20 minutes or so.

On July 29, the team of volunteers who headed up the crafts station for elementary school children prepared for the first group of kids by organizing worktables with supplies for decorating lanyards that helped to emphasize the day's Bible learning that "God gives good gifts."

"When the children come in, they are so excited," said Crystal Avent, an assistant leader for the station.

With only 20 minutes to give directions, help the kids complete their projects and connect the craft to the daily teaching, "We have to be focused and make sure we get the important points across," she said.

But Avent, eight months pregnant, hung in like a trooper. "Being on my feet is rough," she said. "It's exhausting, but it's fun.

"It's great that the chapel can support these kinds of activities. Stuttgart does a wonderful job in providing Christian fellowship," added the Navy spouse.

Meanwhile, Avent's 4-year-old daughter Hannah and 22 other preschool children were involved in

The church community here is the closest thing that's come to feeling like home since we've been in the Navy — and that's 18 years.

Terrie Lowery
RB VBS volunteer



Volunteer Sidney McCartney, 11, helps Kaleigh Ivey, 8, put together a "magnificent magna-scope" Aug. 3 during the Robinson Barracks VBS. The craft was intended to reinforce the day's Bible point that "God watches over you." In USAG Stuttgart, more than 300 children attended two sessions of VBS, while 170 volunteers led them in Bible stories, skits, crafts, songs, and other activities. VBS was sponsored by the garrison Religious Support Office.

activities such as a balloon hot potato game.

On this day, Panda Patrol member Josh Camacho, 16, supervised a small group of the preschoolers at play. "The Panda Patrol picks up the slack in whatever area needs it," he said. "I've played Peter in a drama, made snacks, helped numerous lost kids, and today, I'm assisting the crew leader."

Participating in VBS allowed the soon-to-be Patch High School senior to rack up some volunteer hours, but that was not his sole motivation. "I get to work with the little kids — most of them are super-cute — plus, I get to be a big kid," he said.

Robinson Barracks' VBS, with 74 participants and 57 volunteers, was on a smaller scale but had no less of an impact.

"It's smaller by number, but it's really the Robinson community here. The kids all know each other, and it's a very family-oriented setting," said Jim Sciegel, the Religious Education director for the garrison's Religious Support Office.

The real difference, however, was that the RB VBS was held in the evening rather than the morning, but the time difference did not seem to affect the participants.

"My kids have been in camp this week, and they



Boys will be boys — VBS participants ham it up with their buffs — multifunctional garments that can be worn a number of ways — during the Patch VBS on July 29. "The buffs are incredibly popular — they can wear them however they want," said Jim Sciegel, the religious education director for the garrison.



Patch VBS participants join in to reenact Psalms 139:5, "You place your hand of blessing on my head," during a morning session July 29. The verse helped to reinforce the daily Bible point that "God gives good gifts."

are so excited when I pick them up to bring them here. They get to socialize and interact with their friends," said Terrie Lowery, a Navy spouse and RB resident.

The experience was also satisfying for Lowery, who volunteered as a station leader. "It's been good for my heart. The church community here is the closest thing that's come to feeling like home since we've been in the Navy — and that's 18 years."

A part of any vacation bible school focuses on a special mission project.

For the past four years, the RSO has supported a program called Portion for Orphans, a not-for-profit organization established to "raise public awareness about orphans worldwide and improve the quality of care provided to orphans," according to its website.

The VBS participants also supported this organization.

"This year the children, doing chores or using money saved in piggy banks, shared their abundance with the New Hope Orphanage in China," said Religious Education Director Sciegel.

"They raised almost \$6,000. This will provide for 30 cleft lip or corrective surgeries on children under the age of 3. It was an outstanding support of the children and their families for Portion for Orphans," he added.

Accountants wanted

Private organizations in Stuttgart are looking for credentialed accountants to audit their books. Accountants need to have a state license as a public accountant, or be a certified public accountant or a certified auditor. Fees for the audit work are negotiated between the auditor and private organization.

For more information, contact the Stuttgart Private Organization Coordinator at 421-2381/civ. 0711-729-2381.

Garrison Town Hall

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart will host a town hall meeting Aug. 15 at 5 p.m. in the Panzer Chapel.

Health clinic closed for training holidays

The U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart will close Aug. 12 and 26, and Sept. 2 and 5 in observance of a training and federal holidays.

On Aug. 12, the clinic will be open for sports and school physicals only (appointments required).

In case of an emergency, call the Military Police at 0711-680-114. For immediate health care needs, call the Nurse Advice Line at 0800-4759-2330.

Sports physicals

The U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart will offer children's school and sports physicals Aug. 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring the child's immunization records and eye glasses to the physical.

To schedule an appoint-



Photos by Steve Roark

Muscle car mania

Stuttgart military community members check out Joseph Bartley's AC Shelby Cobra replica (original AC Shelby Cobras are valued at \$1 million) during the American Muscle Car Meet June 30, hosted by U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Thirty different cars were on display, while the Nicole Frechette Band performed country music for passersby.



The Nicole Frechette Band performs during the American Muscle Car Show June 30 on Panzer Kaserne. The band, provided by Armed Forces Entertainment, played a variety of country tunes while community members checked out 30 different muscle cars, from Mustangs and Chevys to Camaros and Corvettes. For more photos, visit www.flickr.com/photos/usagstuttgart.

ment, register with the Care Call Center at 371-2622/civ. 0622-117-2622.

ASAP training

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Army Substance Abuse Program will conduct annual civilian ASAP training for garrison supervisors Sept. 15 from 1-2 p.m. and for employees from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in Building 2948, Panzer Kaserne.

For more information, or to schedule on site training, call

431-2530/civ. 07031-15-2530.

Donate, volunteer for Pfennig Bazaar

This year, the German American Women's Club will host their annual Pfennig Bazaar at the Liederhalle in downtown Stuttgart on Oct. 14 and 15. Last year, the bazaar raised over €100,000 in support of Stuttgart military community and German organizations.

Donation bins are now available outside the Patch

Barracks sorting room (next to the Patch Thrift Shop, Building 2332) for round-the-clock donation drop-offs.

To volunteer in the sorting room, contact the sorting room manager, Denise Stanley, at patchsortingroom@googlemail.com. For more information on the Pfennig Bazaar, contact Jennifer Kiwus at jake0961@yahoo.com.

EEO hosts Lunch and Learn

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Equal Employment Opportunity Office will host a Lunch and Learn Session on Aug. 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the ACS Conference Room, Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne.

The Lunch and Learn Session will focus on the appropriate techniques for managing, evaluating and processing corrective actions, in an effort to decrease EEO complaints in this area. The guest presenter will be Kathryn Schultz, chief of management employee relations. Participants are welcome to bring a bag lunch.

For more information, or to register, e-mail usagstuttgarteeo@eur.army.mil.

Patch sport courts under renovation

The basketball and rac-

quetball courts at the Patch Fitness Center are scheduled to be repaired. During the repair dates, the areas will be closed to the public. The racquetball court will be renovated Aug. 10-19 and the basketball court Oct. 4-21.

Stuttgart grad programs open house

The Panzer Education Center will host a graduate programs open house Aug. 17 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne. Representatives from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and the Universities of Maryland, Oklahoma, and Phoenix will be on hand to answer questions.

For more information, contact Michael O'Beirne at michael.j.obeirne@eur.army.mil or 431-2714/civ. 07031-15-2714.

ACAP events

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Army Career and Alumni Program will host an Interview Preparation class Aug. 17 from 9 a.m. to noon and a Veterans Affairs Benefits Brief Aug. 26 from 8 a.m. to noon

For more information, call 431-2191/civ. 07031-15-2191.

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

USAG Stuttgart Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division

Explore forests

The United Nations declared 2011 the International Year of the Forests. While more than two thirds of species worldwide live in forests, they are a resource for human life too. Why not explore it for yourself?

USAG Stuttgart installations include small portions of forests or tree stands. Take your family out for a hike, look out for birds and squirrels and open your ears to the many sounds of the woods.

Learn more about interesting animals to observe, including the Great Spotted Woodpecker and the Fire Salamander, on the USAG Stuttgart DPW website at <https://dpw.stuttgart.army.mil/ed/index.htm>.



AFRICOM goes for gold in 'Olympics'

Story & photos by Joseph Mancy
Special to The Citizen

On July 15, U.S. Africa Command hosted its first "Olympics" on Kelley Barracks. More than 1,200 AFRICOM service members, Department of Defense civilians and their family members competed in 32 different events. While the AFRICOM Olympics was designed to build camaraderie within the command, it was also a chance for everyone to enjoy summer food, games and social activities.

Gen. Carter F. Ham, AFRICOM commander, held the event to thank AFRICOM members and their families for the hard work and sacrifices they've made throughout the year.

"The credit rightfully goes to our commander, Gen. Carter Ham. It was his vision from the very start," said AFRICOM Senior Enlisted Advisor Chief Master Sgt. Jack Johnson Jr., who provided remarks during the event. "He realized through experience ... that building morale and esprit de corps is often gained through teamwork and healthy competition.

"Additionally, having a picnic and including our families tells them that they, too, are an important part of the AFRICOM team and we appreciate them."

The event included traditional Olympic events such as basketball, weightlifting and volleyball. It also included a three-legged race, dizzy bat relay, tug-of-war competition and egg run, along with a spirited game of musical chairs.

When participants weren't battling it out on the field, they could also take part in a hula hoop contest, face painting, chili cook-off and eating contests.

The variety of events had the desired effect on the AFRICOM team, Johnson said: it provided the many directorates in attendance with a sense of solidarity.

"At the very start of the Olympics ... personnel in each directorate saw members of the other directorates as just that — members of another directorate," Johnson said. "As the day's competition progressed, AFRICOM members began talking, laughing, eating and sharing time together.

"Family members met new acquaintances and kids played with each other as if they had been lifelong friends. By the end of the Olympics ... those individual formations of directorates had vanished, and all [were] on one team."

The top three winners for each event accumulated points for their directorate. After the points were tallied, the J3/J4 directorate earned first place, followed by Marine Forces Africa in second and J1/8 in third.

The spirit award, presented to the directorate that demonstrated the most enthusiasm, went to J5.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur once said, "On the fields of friendly strife are sown the seeds that on other days and other fields will bear the fruits of victory."

While some might not consider musical chairs friendly strife, it certainly sowed the seeds for next year's AFRICOM Olympics.



Aaron Letteer leads the command group of U.S. Africa Command in a tug-of-war competition during the AFRICOM Olympics July 15 on Kelley Barracks.



Chief Master Sgt. Jack Johnson, AFRICOM senior enlisted advisor, takes time to ponder the flavor of an entry in the chili cook-off during the AFRICOM Olympics. For more photos, visit www.flickr.com/photos/usagstuttgart.



[Above] The egg run competition during the AFRICOM Olympics was one of many less-traditional games.



[Right] Members of the AFRICOM J5 directorate display their enthusiasm to win the AFRICOM Olympics Spirit Award.

For more USAG Stuttgart community photos, visit www.flickr.com/photos/usagstuttgart

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Brittany Carlson

Hungry for more lunch options?

Oliver Glenn Ray Lette, 20 months old, bites into an apple at the newly-reopened Patch Food Court Aug. 5. The food court, located across from the Patch Arts and Crafts Center on Patch Barracks, offers a Sehne Bakery, Burger King and Subway, with a Taco Bell to open later this month. The food court officially opened to diners July 29. For hours of operation, visit www.shopmyexchange.com/ExchangeLocations/PatchBarracksStore.htm.

Sign up for skate-board competition

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Child, Youth and School Services will host a German/American Skateboard Competition on Aug. 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Genialer Skate Park in Kornwestheim. Cost is \$10.

Register at CYS Services Parent Central Services (Building 2347, Patch Barracks), or on site the morning of the event. All participants must have a waiver signed by a parent. Safety gear is required.

For more information, call CYS Services at 430-7480/civ. 0711-680-7480.

Sesame Street coming to Stuttgart

On Aug. 13-14, the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Family and MWR and United Service Organizations will host the "Sesame Street Experience for Military Families."

On Aug. 13, shows will be at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. On Aug. 14, the show will begin at 2 p.m. Doors open 30 minutes before each show.

For more information, call 431-2624/civ. 07031-15-2624.

See free showing of 'To Hell and Back'

In recognition of the 25th anniversary of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club and to raise awareness about post-traumatic stress disorder, the

Sergeant Audie Murphy Club will host a free showing of the film "To Hell and Back" Aug. 19 at 1 p.m. in the Patch Theater. Parental discretion is advised.

PCS briefing set

The next scheduled permanent change of station/pre-separation briefing will be held Aug. 17 at 1 p.m. in Building 2913 on Panzer Kaserne. All service members and civilians departing within the next four to five months should attend.

Information will be provided from various agencies, including transportation/TRI-CARE, medical, housing and Army Community Service.

Advance registration is required. For more information and to sign up, call 431-2599/civ. 07031-15-2599.

Ski club hosts BBQ

The Patch Ski Club will hold a barbecue Aug. 17 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on the Patch Community Club patio. This social is free for club members and \$5 for non-members.

For more information, visit www.PatchSkiClub.com.

Register for UMUC Europe fall classes

Register now for University of Maryland University College Europe Fall 2011 Session 1 classes. Registration ends Aug. 21. Classes start Aug. 22.

For more information, visit www.ed.umuc.edu or

call the local UMUC representative at 431-2303/civ. 07031-15-2303.

Legal office hours

The Legal Assistance Office on Kelley Barracks has new business hours. Hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2-4:30 p.m.;

Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Thursday from 1-4:30 p.m.

Powers of attorney and notary services are only available on a walk-in basis.

Flea market set

The next U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart community flea market will be held Aug. 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Panzer Kaserne. Register online at www.stuttgartmwr.com.

ASAP training has new web address

Army Substance Abuse Program online training is now available at <https://portal.eur.army.mil/sites/IM-COM-E-BW/Baden-Wuerttemberg/kl/asap/>, in addition to the local ASAP training site, www.usag.stuttgart.army.mil/ol-tng/olhome.html.

Panzer DFAC training holiday closures

The 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Dining Facility on Panzer Kaserne will be closed Aug. 19 and 22 for training holidays.

Save money on utility taxes

By joining the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Utility Tax Avoidance Program, community members can save 19 percent on electric and 7 per-

cent on water and gas bills.

For more information, visit www.stuttgartmwr.com/taxes/UTAP/. For appointments, call 431-3451/civ. 07031-15-3451.

Community Banks limit hours Aug. 24

On Aug. 24, all Community Banks in the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SOCEUR to host free movie event

Special Operations Command Europe will host a free showing of the movie "Act of Valor," Aug. 19 at 6 p.m. at the Patch Theater. The film includes performances by actual U.S. Navy SEALs and is rated R. Seating is limited. Pick up free tickets at the Patch Food Court and Patch Theater beginning Aug. 12.

USO golf tourney photos online

Thomas Dodd, Paul Moreno, Jon Rodgers and Ken Oldham won the Stuttgart United Service Organizations' 20th Annual Golf Tournament July 23. For photos, visit www.flickr.com/photos/usagstuttgart.

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

Ruling the road: tips for safe bicycling

Wearing a helmet isn't the only precaution bicyclists should take when riding. Keep in mind the following safety tips:

- *Be seen. No matter the time of the day, you need to be seen by others. Always wear neon, fluorescent or other bright colors when riding by day or night.*
- *Obey all traffic laws. A bicycle is a vehicle. When you ride in the street, obey all traffic signs, signals and lane markings.*
- *Be predictable. Ride in a straight line, not in and out of cars. Signal your moves to others.*
- *Stay alert. Watch out for potholes, cracks, wet leaves, railroad tracks or anything that could make you lose control of your bike.*
- *You need your ears to listen for traffic: don't wear a headset.*
- *When turning left or right, always look behind you for a break in traffic and then signal well before making the turn.*
- *Watch for parked cars. Ride far enough out from the curb to avoid the unexpected from parked cars such as doors opening or cars pulling out.*

USAG STUTTGART

S F E T Y CORNER



Host nation first responders plan a course of action during the 2011 Stallion Shake emergency preparedness exercise, held July 9 on Panzer Kaserne. The exercise involved an active shooter scenario, and German and American responders had to work together to mitigate the threat and treat casualties quickly.



Lt. John Cable, a Department of the Army civilian policeman, apprehends a suspect in an active shooting scenario at the Panzer Behavioral Health Clinic during Stallion Shake 2011, a U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart emergency preparedness exercise held July 9 on Panzer Kaserne.



Lise Downing, a Stuttgart military community volunteer with the Deutsches Rotes Kreuz, applies makeup to Max Connell, 6, to make him appear as though he's been in an explosion, during the Stallion Shake emergency preparedness exercise July 9, held for German and American first responders.



Firemen with the Böblingen Feuerwehr (fire department) discuss the best way to go into the smoke-filled Böblingen Elementary/Middle School to rescue those trapped inside, during the Stallion Shake emergency preparedness exercise July 9. The firemen retrieved volunteer "victims" with aerial ladders.



[Above] Deutsches Rotes Kreuz first responders carry victims to the triage area during the Stallion Shake emergency preparedness exercise held July 9 on Panzer Kaserne. The exercise provided German and American first responders with a chance to practice reacting to an emergency situation — in this case, an active shooter scenario.

[Left] U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Military Police organize victims of a simulated explosion at the Böblingen Elementary/Middle School during Stallion Shake, the garrison emergency preparedness exercise held July 9 on Panzer Kaserne.



Lt. Col. George Self, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart director of Emergency Services, speaks with a member of the Böblingen police force following an active shooter "incident" at the Panzer Behavioral Health Clinic during Stallion Shake, the garrison's annual emergency preparedness exercise, held July 9.



Stallion

Story & photos by
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

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The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart emergency preparedness exercise, held for the first time on...

In this year's scenario, an active shooter opened fire in the Panzer Behavioral Health Clinic and then detonated a bomb in Böblingen Elementary/Middle School — hence the need for a myriad of "injuries," from a broken glass embedded in...

The Deutsches Rotes Kreuz (German Red Cross) made the injuries look realistic on volunteers' skin, embedding wax bones, and pouring fake blood. "We have to make it look like a real emergency," said Force Master Sgt. Shaughnessy, who was having multiple bullet wounds to his chest and back.

One of the main goals of the exercise was to help German first responders become more comfortable performing their duties in a lifelike environment.

"We practice the way we would respond in a real-life emergency," said Lt. Col. George Self, USAG Stuttgart director of Emergency Services. "The exercise provided a realistic scenario for the garrison to practice its response for the troop diversion team. [practice] with our host nation." D. Bird, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs. "With the active sh...



[Above] Brandon Cockridge, a USAG Stuttgart civilian and volunteer for the Stallion Shake exercise, gets "treated" for cuts and burns by Jürgen Rieser, a Deutsches Rotes Kreuz employee at the triage area. The exercise, held July 9 on Panzer Kaserne, gave German and American first responders the opportunity to practice reacting to an active shooter scenario.

[Left] Firefighters with the Böblingen Feuerwehr "rescue" victims trapped in smoke-filled school on Panzer Kaserne during the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart emergency preparedness exercise, Stallion Shake, held July 9 on Panzer Kaserne. For the first time, the exercise involved host nation first responders from Böblingen.

Stallion Shake 2011: American, German responders prepared for emergency

Tiffany Carlson
Public Affairs Office

morning of July 16, garrison military community members lined up for a chance to get covered in fake blood, that is, they were part of the garrison annual emergency exercise called Stallion Shake, held on Panzer Kaserne.

Scenario, active shooters, behavioral health, an explosive device at the school, which started with volunteers to sustain gunshot wounds to their skin.

Deutsches Rotes Kreuz (German Red Cross) took real by putting wax and adding plastic shards or red paint.

"It's realistic," said Air Force Capt. Zamudio, while the wounds painted on his

scenarios of the exercise is that responders become community members on a military scenario.

"We practice the way we fight. The exercise provides a realistic opportunity not only to practice its actions, but also to practice, as well as to practice, as well as to practice," said Col. Carl D. Bird, commander.

shooter incidents that

“We practice the way we fight. The exercise provided a realistic opportunity not only for the garrison to practice its actions, but also for the troop diversion to practice, as well as [practice] with our host nation.”

Col. Carl D. Bird
USAG Stuttgart commander

occur, both CONUS and OCONUS, not only to our American forces but also to the civilian population, this active shooter scenario is very timely for us," he added.

For the first time, the exercise involved German emergency response teams from Böblingen.

"We rely fully on the support we have from the host nation," said Ron Kirkemo, USAG Stuttgart Emergency Management Office director and exercise director.

"We know how to work together now to manage the situation," he added.

To help make the exercise as "real" as possible, 63 volunteers acted as victims or active shooters — the largest amount of volunteers in

a Stallion Shake to date, Kirkemo said.

In addition, the garrison Fire Prevention Office filled the school hallways with smoke using smoke machines and scattered shredded paper to look like debris.

Once the exercise started, German police were called in to help clear the buildings, and the German Red Cross arrived to help treat victims.

"The MPs and Polizei did a great job of clearing each building and going directly to the threat, and neutralizing the threat," Kirkemo said.

After the buildings were cleared, the Böblingen Feuerwehr (fire department) arrived to simulate rescuing victims from the school's third floor using aerial ladders.

A total of 320 first responders were on site, along with 40 observers from German and American emergency response organizations.

"It's the first time we've done [an exercise] with Böblingen, and it went a lot better than I thought it would go," said Master Sgt. Gary Cryder, USAG Stuttgart provost sergeant. "We are working through the language barriers and getting familiar with faces. It's an opportunity for us to meet these guys."

It was also a chance for Germans to get to know how their American counterparts work, said Rudi Denzer, Böblingen police chief and district supervisor.

"We have different rules ... different ways to execute [tasks]," Denzer said. "We have to ... train to talk together [and] check out who's the leader."

Although the exercise was not without its hiccups, Denzer said facing the challenges helped both forces see what they might face in a real situation.

"There were some small problems with communication, but that's the reason for this exercise," he added. "We want to test how it works. Altogether it was very good."

In recent years, Stallion Shake has included many different scenarios, from detonations, car bombs and a contaminated water supply to a biological hazard in the mail room.

For this exercise, Kirkemo said he chose the active shooter scenario because USAG Stuttgart is home to two prominent American military headquarters: U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command.

"It gave us the opportunity to train for an active shooter situation ... to train both the Military Police and the Polizei," Kirkemo said.

All USAG Stuttgart directorates were involved in Stallion Shake, from the planning stages to posting community alerts on the garrison Facebook website during the exercise. The Böblingen county crisis management, THW, also helped with planning, Kirkemo said.

"It's a combined effort," he said. "Everybody out here contributes to the safety of our organization."

New protection measures

Aside from exercises like Stallion Shake, the Emergency Management Office also aims to keep USAG Stuttgart protected by bringing in new technologies.

In the next few months, Giant Voice technology will be installed on Patch and Kelley Barracks. Giant Voice is a loudspeaker system that plays a recorded emergency message for the entire installation to hear.

In addition, the garrison will implement a new telephone and network alerting system by the end of the year, he added.

What's happening in FMWR

Youth Bowling League

A Youth Bowling League is scheduled to start in September for children ages 6-17. Parents are invited to an information session Aug. 25 at 7 p.m. at the Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center.

For more information, call 431-2575/civ. 07031-15-2575.

Junior Golf Camp

A Junior Golf Camp for children ages 11-17 will be held Aug. 15-18 from 10:45 a.m. to noon at the Stuttgart Golf Course in Kornwestheim.

Sign up at the Pro Shop. The cost is \$60. For more information, call civ. 07141-879-151.

Take free spin class

Stuttgart's Family and MWR will host the following free "Spinning Curbside" classes this month:

- Robinson Barracks: Aug. 13, 10 a.m. at the RB park pavilion
- Patch Barracks: Aug. 18, 6 p.m. at the Patch Commissary
- Kelley Barracks: Aug. 24, 5:30 p.m. at the Kelley Park

In case of rain, the class will be inside the local fitness center.

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

ARThaus Photo Exhibit

USAG Stuttgart Family and MWR will host an ARThaus Photography Exhibition, featuring the work of Yash and Maddie Holbrook, Aug. 26 from 3-8 p.m. at the Swabian Special Events Center.

Submit photos for All Army contest by Oct. 1

The Family and MWR Patch Arts and Crafts Center is accepting photography entries through Oct. 1 for the All Army Photo Contest. For more information, call 430-5270/civ. 0711-680-5270.

Bodybuilding, Figure Competition set

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Family and MWR will host its annual Bodybuilding and Figure Championship Aug. 27 at 6 p.m. at the Stuttgart Theatre Center on Kelley Barracks.

Tickets go on sale August 16. Register at the Patch Fitness Center. For more information, call 430-7136/civ. 0711-680-7136.

For Family and MWR updates, e-mail mwrmarketing@eur.army.mil. photos.com



Coming to Patch Theater

Aug. 11 — The Conspirator (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Aug. 12 — Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 6 p.m., Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 9 p.m.

Aug. 13 — Kung Fu Panda 2 (PG) 4 p.m., Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (PG) 7 p.m., Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 9 p.m.

Aug. 14 — Kung Fu Panda 2 (PG) 2 p.m., Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (PG) 4 p.m., Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Aug. 15 — Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Aug. 16 — Kung Fu Panda 2 (PG) 6 p.m.

Aug. 17 — Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (PG) 6 p.m.

Aug. 18 — The Conspirator (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Aug. 19 — Green Lantern (PG-13) 7 p.m., Final Destination 5 (R) 9 p.m.

Aug. 20 — Green Lantern (PG-13) 4 p.m., Final Destination 5 (R) 7 p.m., X-Men: First Class (PG-13) 9 p.m.

Aug. 21 — Green Lantern (PG-



Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation

13) 2 p.m., X-Men: First Class (PG-13) 4 p.m., Final Destination 5 (R) 7 p.m.

Aug. 22 — Final Destination 5 (R) 6 p.m.

Aug. 23 — Green Lantern (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Aug. 24 — X-Men: First Class (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Family & MWR Featured Events

www.stuttgartmwr.com



FITNESS

BODYBUILDING CHAMPIONSHIP

4th Annual Bodybuilding/Figure Competition.

August 27 6 p.m. Kelley Theatre

Ticket sales begin August 16 at www.stuttgartmwr.com

DSN 421 3055 CIV 0711 729 3055

SPINNING CURBSIDE

Enjoy spinning outside the gym!

August 13 10 a.m. RB Park/Pavilion

August 18 6 p.m. Patch Commissary

August 24 5:30 p.m. Kelley Park

DSN 430 7136 CIV 0711 680 7136



LEISURE

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August 19 - 22

Depart Outdoor Recreation on Panzer

DSN 430 2774 CIV 07031 15 2774

EUROPEAN WINES

Learn everything about wine: food and wine pairing, serving temperatures, wine regions, wine etiquette and more.

August 13 6 - 8 p.m.

Brewed Awakening on RB, Bldg. 168

CIV 0174 248 9901



COMMUNITY

CARE FAIR & FLEA MARKET

Come connect with your community. Learn about clubs, organizations, facilities and more! Over 60 organizations from USAG Stuttgart and surrounding area will be available to share what they have to offer.

Community Flea Market.

Co-located with Care Fair on the sidewalks at the Panzer Exchange.

August 20 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Panzer Exchange

DSN 430 2110 CIV 0711 680 2110



Firework festival illuminates August nights

By Carola Meusel

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Those who missed this year's July 4 fireworks still have a chance to watch colorful rockets light up the night during the "Flammende Sterne" (Flaming Stars) firework festival.

This year's annual event will run from Aug. 19-21 at the former garden fair grounds at Scharnhäuser Park in Ostfildern. The festival is open Friday and Saturday from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m., and Sunday from 4 p.m. to midnight.

This year, pyrotechnicians from China, Greece and the U.S. will participate in the firework competition. Firework displays, set to music, run from 10-10:30 p.m. nightly.

Nano Fireworks is Greece's oldest firework company, and its pyrotechnicians are expected to have a spectacular choreography set up for the Greek music firework on Aug. 19, according to the festival's promotional brochure.

Firework artists from China will take over the skies of Ostfildern on Aug. 20. The Chinese firework designers opened the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai.

Brad Cicotti, chief pyrotechnician of Disney Parks Entertainment, will be representing the U.S. with a display on Aug. 21. Cicotti normally is in charge of designing special effects for fireworks in Disneyland in California and Walt Disney World in Florida.

"It's the first time that Brad Cicotti is performing at a firework festival outside of Disneyland and Walt Disney World," said Elke Cosmo, spokesperson for the Event-und Festivalmanagement Company. "This will be the highlight of Flammende Sterne in 2011."

A jury of pyrotechnical experts and firework enthusiasts will choose the winner of this year's firework festival, according to Cosmo. The award ceremony is scheduled for Aug. 21 at 11:15 p.m.

Breathtaking fireworks choreographed to music will transform Scharnhäuser Park into an ocean of light and sound during all three days of the festival, Cosmo said.

She recommended that visitors bring blankets and



Fireworks illuminate the skies over Ostfildern during last year's "Flammende Sterne" or Flaming Stars firework festival. This year's event will run from Aug. 19-21.

Photo © Christian Schenk. Used with permission.

camping chairs to sit on the lawn and enjoy the show.

Besides fireworks, the festival includes a variety of and souvenir market, performances by fire-breathers and acrobats, and a "Ballonglüh," during which illuminated hot air balloons will rise into the evening sky. Visitors can book a balloon ride on all three days of the festival.

Aug. 21 has been set aside as "Marktkauf Family Day" and will offer free hands-on activities, arts and crafts, trampoline jumping and face painting for children from 4-9 p.m.

The festival also offers a variety of food and entertainment representing the participating countries in the firework contest, according to Cosmo.

The Greek music group "Omega" will entertain the crowds on Aug. 19 from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. with classical Greek folk music and the famous "Sirtaki" dance.

On Aug. 20, patrons will be entertained by Kung Fu and various Chinese martial art shows.

American-style entertainment will include the MaxFracas rock band, which will play classic rock

tunes Aug. 21 from 6 p.m. until midnight. The cheer-leading team "Red Poison" and the Sun Line Dancers will also perform throughout the evening beginning at 6 p.m.

"The Flammende Sterne festival is one of the most beautiful firework festivals in Germany," Cosmo said. "We offer an exciting program for the entire family to enjoy."

"Flammende Sterne is simply a feel-good event."

Tickets cost €10 when purchased in advance and €13 at the event. Family tickets (two adults and two children 11 years old and younger) cost €29. Three-day tickets cost €26. To purchase tickets, call 0800-2711711, or visit www.cs-kartenservice.de. Tickets are also for sale in local Marktkauf grocery stores and tourist information bureaus.

To book a balloon ride, call 07128-1724 or by visiting www.bsg-sonnenbuehl.de.

For more information about Flammende Sterne, visit www.flammende-sterne.de.

"Out & About in Baden-Württemberg" is your guide to German culture. Read the latest issue online at www.stuttgart.army.mil.



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[Above] Morgan Mahlock finishes first in the Run to Remember 5K July 16.

[Right] Runners vie for position in the half-marathon as the starting gun goes off.



The 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Family Readiness Group serves up barbecue, salad and desserts to runners in the Run to Remember 5K and half-marathon July 16. The 1/10th SFG(A) co-hosted the run with U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Family and MWR.



[Left] Maj. Ashton Reid, 1/10th SFG(A), reads the names of loved ones killed in action since Sept. 11, 2001, before the fourth annual Run to Remember.

Fourth Annual Run to Remember

A running tribute

Story & photos by Brittany Carlson
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

While many of their counterparts enjoyed sleeping late, 395 service members, civilians and family members in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart started their Saturday morning with a 13-mile or five-kilometer run July 16.

But it was more than just a chance to exercise. The fourth annual Run to Remember, hosted by USAG Stuttgart Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation and 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), provided them with a way to memorialize friends, family and loved ones killed in action since Sept. 11, 2001.

At 7:30 a.m., all of the runners gathered in front of the 1/10th SFG(A), building on Panzer Kaserne for the run's opening ceremony, led by Lt. Col. Peltier, 1/10th SFG(A) commander, and Maj. Ashton Reid, the unit's foreign service officer, who read the names of loved ones killed in action, submitted by community members. Sgt. 1st Class David Battaly performed taps.

Then, the 5K run began, followed by the half-marathon, which wound around the Panzer Local Training Area and finished back on Panzer Kaserne. A total of 163 runners participated in the half-marathon, with 232 in the 5K.

"It's such a personal event," said Holly Ogren, USAG Stuttgart FMWR fitness coordinator. "When they submit names for the ceremony, these are people that they know and have loved and miss. This is a way for them to memorialize and remember them through a running event."

It wasn't an easy run either, according to race veteran Veronica Carreon. The half-marathon included several hills over rocky terrain.

What kept Carreon running was the face depicted on her T-shirt: her cousin, Sgt. Jose Refugio Escobedo Jr., who was killed in Iraq in 2009.

"I just remember how he was a very happy person and that's what carried me through the whole run today," Carreon said.

Another half-marathon runner, Marty Smith, ran for Spc. Christopher Stark, who was killed in Afghanistan in early 2011. He said that the physical pain of the run is a good reminder of the price men like Stark paid for American freedom.

"It's good for everybody to remember the guys who made the ultimate sacrifice," he said. "No matter how hard this race is, you think about those guys, and you look at the memorial signs posted and it just keeps you going."

Smith, a Navy retiree, has been involved in the Run to Remember since its inception in 2008, when the 1/10th

SFG(A), chaplain at the time, Capt. Jerry Waldrop, came up with the idea.

Since then, it has doubled in size from around 200 runners to nearly 400. Additionally, the 1/10th SFG(A), Family Readiness Group has made a tradition of hosting a post-race barbecue as a fundraiser.

"It's great to see it get even bigger and better," Smith said.

Because of the event's size, many volunteers are needed to coordinate the run, Ogren said.

Approximately 96 volunteers supported the event this year, including those from 1/10th SFG(A); 52nd Signal Battalion, 587th Signal Company; Headquarters, U.S. European Command; Community Bank and the U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart.

"This run is truly not possible without the volunteers," she said. "To man that course, plus [the] finish line and set up, etc. — it takes a lot of race support."

Race results

Half-marathon — 1, John Scudder, 1:24:02.3. 2, Colby Broadwater, 1:25:28.7. 3, Thomas Trevino, 1:25:57.9.

5K — 1, Morgan Mahlock, 20:50.6. 2, Joshua Camacho, 20:59.9. 3, Jacob Camacho, 21:20.6.

For complete results, visit www.stuttgartmwr.com. For more photos, visit www.flickr.com/photos/usagstuttgart.

SPORTS SHORTS

European Army 10-miler results

The Stuttgart Stallions men's running team placed second at the European Army 10-miler held in Grafenwöhr. Scoring for the Stallions were Jimmer Sullivan (62:26), Jeff Maione (66:55), Josh Hamilton (67:20) and Marty Smith (69:10).

Stuttgart runners who earned medals included Sullivan (first, military 50 and over), Maione (third, military 35-39), Smith (first, civilian 50 and over), and Richard Hoke (first, civilian 40-44).

Sgt. Alissa Draper, running for the Stuttgart women's running team, placed fourth among women in the European Army 10-miler and qualified to run in the U.S. Army 10-miler in Washington, D.C. in October. Draper's time of 77:21 placed her second in her age group (females 18-24).

U.S. Club Championship set

The 2011 Stuttgart Golf Course U.S. Club Championship will be held at the Aug. 26-28. The cost is \$50 for club members and \$70 for non-members. Must be a U.S. ID cardholder with an established handicap to participate.

Sign up by Aug. 23. Registration forms are available at www.stuttgartmwr.com.

For more information, call civ. 0714-187-9151.

Stuttgart Select soccer try-outs

U.S. Youth Soccer will hold try-outs for Stuttgart Select Soccer teams Aug. 27-28 at the Panzer Local Training Area for youth ages 9-18. The cost to try out is \$5. Bring a ball and shin guards.

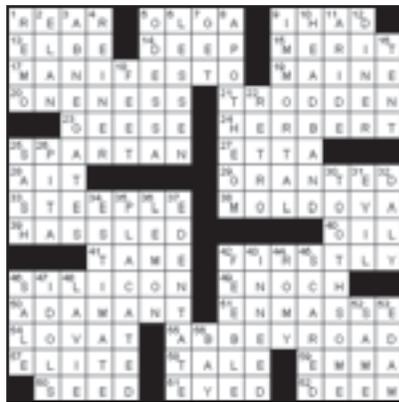
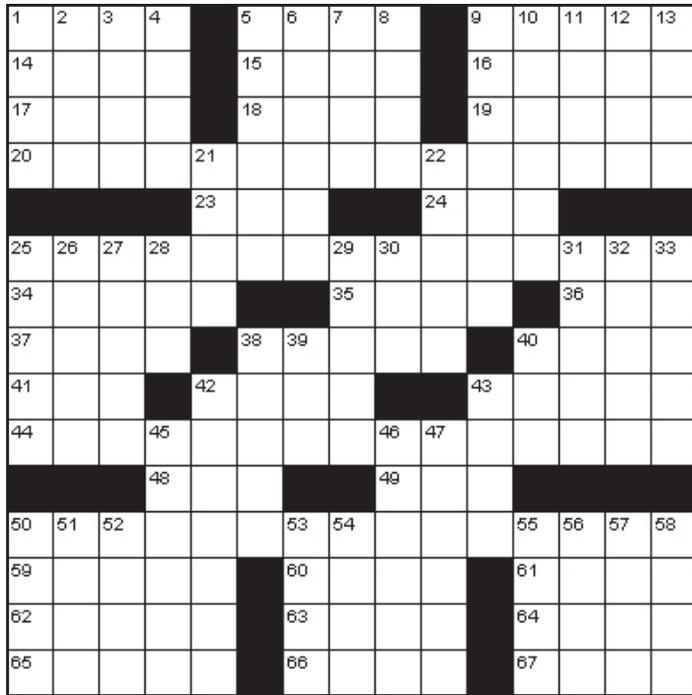
For more information, e-mail stuttgartsoccer@yahoo.com.

Swim with Piranhas

The Stuttgart Piranhas swim team, for swimmers ages 6-19, will host a season start meeting Aug. 24 in the Panzer Fitness Center at 6 p.m. for new families and 6:45 p.m. for all families.

For more information, visit www.stuttgartpiranhas.org.

Crossword Puzzle



This is the solution to the crossword puzzle from July 14!

DOWN

1. Hurry
2. Killer whale
3. Smell
4. Speechless
5. Brawl
6. Conductor Antal
7. Eins, zwei, ____
8. Witnessed
9. Remark of the unimpressed
10. More unsightly
11. Happy
12. No longer here
13. Skywalker mentor
21. Portend
22. Castilian hero
25. Chilled meat garnish
26. Slow mover
27. Actress Shire
28. Small guitar
29. Drugbusters
30. ____ Lanka
31. Island west of Maui
32. Stay home for supper
33. Object
38. Beats
39. Employ
40. Fully
42. Expanded
43. South Pacific boat
45. Experience again
46. Big-beaked bird
47. Italian seaport on the Adriatic
50. Biblical miracle site
51. Arabian Peninsula country
52. Passing notice?
53. Furthermore
54. Chanel of fashion
55. Flesh
56. "Stand ____"

57. Land of leprechauns
58. Cleave

ACROSS

1. Capacity
5. Tots
9. Light carriage
14. Language of Pakistan
15. Fairway warning
16. Domed home
17. Dundee denizen
18. Off the hook
19. Hormone producer
20. Preposterous notion
23. Meal starter?
24. Confederate commander
25. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle title
34. Weave in and out
35. Seed case
36. Sigh of contentment
37. Not very bright
38. Cheaply sensational
40. "Nay!" sayer
41. Trio for Tiberius
42. Record
43. Unadorned
44. Jodie Foster role
48. Antlered animal
49. "Puppet ____ String" (1965 Elvis song)
50. Composed
59. Scope
60. Bananas
61. Fictional Jane
62. Ingenuous
63. Examine closely
64. Exiled Ugandan
65. Paid to hold hands?
66. Mrs Chaplin
67. Care for



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