



Unexploded WW2 bomb defused

By USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

A recently discovered 500-pound bomb found in a forested area near the Panzer Training area was successfully defused by German explosive ordnance disposal experts, Nov. 19.

The bomb, a remnant from the heavy World War II bombing raids of the industrial areas around Stuttgart, was originally expected to be detonated in place on Sunday. The decision to detonate the bomb in place on a Sunday was to minimize the impact on commuter traffic on Highway K1057 (Panzerstrasse) and two schools on USAG Stuttgart's Panzer Kaserne.

However, after trying to clear dozens of pedestrians from the projected blast area, removing hikers and bicyclists who continued to enter the zone, the EOD team was instead able to dig the bomb out and defuse it.

State, county and City of Schönaich officials set up an emergency operations center (EOC) in Schönaich city hall, bringing together Polizei, German Red Cross, firefighters and representatives from the garrison's Directorate of Emergency Services

to coordinate efforts to neutralize the bomb.

"It was a best case scenario by the book. Everything went as planned and with almost optimal coverage of all time slots. All deployed emergency personnel, well over 300 have done a tremendous job, from the cooperation with the representatives of the U.S. Army, continuing with the community, district, and city administration, explosive ordnance disposal experts, police force, fire department, the Red Cross, and the ending with the road traffic authorities," said Marcel Launer, head of office, Boeblingen City Administration.

The garrison stood up its EOC around 6 a.m. and had a representative working in partnership at the host nation's EOC until after the all-clear was sounded.

"It was a great experience working alongside the host nation emergency responders during this situation," said Anthony Herrera, deputy director, USAG-Stuttgart Directorate of Emergency Services. "We operate our respective EOCs differently and to learn how they manage their EOC has provided me a realistic view point that I am sure

will come in handle in the future."

Panzerstrasse, the road between USAG Stuttgart's Panzer Kaserne and Schönaich, was closed, 9 a.m. until 2:47 p.m. when all clear was announced, from the Böblingen traffic circle near Autobahn A81 to the traffic circle entering Schönaich. A number of buildings on the kaserne within the blast zone were closed for the day, although the main Exchange and the Panzer Hotel were unaffected. The flight path for Stuttgart's international airport passes over the spot where the bomb was found, and for short periods of time, air traffic was delayed.

"This ideal teamwork made it possible for a very dangerous relic of more than 70 years old war to be successfully defused without putting the population at risk," Launer said. "I view this defusing as a strong symbol for the long-standing German-American partnership which has allowed us to create and maintain peace in Europe as a joint effort where everyone has played their part for more than 70 years now."

Had the bomb been blown in place, the shock wave it could've created had the potential to break



Photo by Tony Herrera

The 500-pound bomb, defused, is lifted out of its resting place after more than seven decades.

windows and possibly do other damage in Schönaich and on Panzer Kaserne.

"It is reassuring for us to know that we can always count on good cooperation with the U.S. Army, especially to me as leading official in charge of the public order and safety," Launer said.

Veterans of all ages pay tribute to comrades



Stuttgart High School JROTC members present the colors during the Veterans Day ceremony at the Patch Chapel, Nov. 11.

Story and photo by Larry Reilly
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Dozens of veterans past, present and future gathered at the Patch Barracks Chapel, Veterans Day, Nov. 11, to honor those who have served in the armed forces.

Past veterans donned the uniforms of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, while present veterans Chaplain (Col.) James Boulware, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, provided the ceremony invocation and benediction, and guest speaker Maj. Gen. Kenneth Moore, U.S. Army Africa Command, brought messages of wartime realities.

Members of the Stuttgart High School JROTC program (and possible future veterans) posted the nation's colors to open the ceremony.

"On the 11th hour, the 11th day and the 11th month

of 1918, the guns of both the victors and the vanquished fell silent, and the 'war to end all wars' slipped into history," Moore said. He reflected on the 20 years that followed that day, then referred to as Armistice Day, in remembrance of the 100,000 Americans who lost their lives freeing the world from tyranny.

"Today we celebrate Veterans Day, a day that honors not just the heroes of World War I, but the tens of millions of men and women who have served our nation in times of war and peace, Moore said. "While the technology of war has changed over the intervening years, America's most valuable military asset remains the same — the character and courage of our men and women in uniform."

Members of American Legion Post 6, VFW Post 10810, the Veteran Motorcycle Club and the Association of United

States Army presented wreaths that were later placed outside at the base of the U.S. flag for all to see during the Veterans Day weekend.

Along with the dozens of veterans in attendance were many community members, young and old.

"This was my first Veterans Day ceremony and I really liked it, especially the presenting of the flags and the wreaths," said 13-year-old Kayla Mitchell, a Girl Scout Cadet with Stuttgart Troop 53534.

Ceremony emcee, retired command master chief Joe Holde, spoke about how veterans and their families can share their personal stories while serving in one capacity or another for the U.S. military by visiting the Library of Congress. "The site (www.loc.gov/vets) helps bring the human side of the military life and the wartime missions of those who serve," Holder said.

Enjoy the holiday season, celebrate responsibly

By Col. Neal A. Corson
Commander, USAG Stuttgart

As the holiday season is fast approaching, Command Sgt. Maj. Mariano Alvarez, the deputy to the garrison commander, Heidi Malarchik, and I want to extend our sincere appreciation to all the service members and civilian employees for all of your hard work and commitment to your command, your jobs, your families and the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart community.

With so many great holiday options available to us here in Europe, it is important to also put emphasis on having a safe holiday season.

Many of you will travel back to the states to visit family while others will stay in Germany and check out the local holiday events.

If you choose to travel back to the states, plan your trip wisely. Arrive

at the airport early with all the required passports and other documents and ensure you have plenty of time between flights in case of delays or cancellations.

For those staying here in Germany, but plan to visit another European country during the holidays, please check with the USAG-Stuttgart Security Office in building 2948 on Panzer Kaserne to get the latest travel and security information on the country you wish to visit.

If you plan to travel by your own vehicle, perform the safety checks to ensure your vehicle is running well and make sure you have winter or all-season tires as well as all the required warning devices. Also pack some extra water and nonperishable food items and



Col. Neal A. Corson

blankets in the case of a breakdown or a long travel delay.

If you plan to the stay in the Stuttgart area, I encourage you to visit some of the local winter fests (see pages 8-9 of this issue).

Check out the various New Year's events happening on our installations

and off post. Remember, fireworks are not authorized to be fired on post; however, you can enjoy the fireworks display the city of Stuttgart will fire off to bring in the New Year.

Regardless of where you plan to celebrate the upcoming holidays, celebrate responsibly. If you plan to indulge in alcoholic beverages, have a designated driver identified prior to drinking.

Enjoy the holidays safely, get energized for the upcoming year and be ready for the challenges and the rewards that 2018 will bring.

How to have a safe holiday

No matter where you intend on driving, pull into these sites on the digital highway before you get on the freeway, highway or autobahn. To stay safe visit the below links or visit www.stuttgartcitizen.com.

<https://trips.safety.army.mil/>

<https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>

For a look at what can happen when a dry tree catches fire inside a home, see a video at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xr6b9b8FYKk>

'CAPO' tells community the value of donating to CFC

By Debra Peake
CAPO, Combined Federal Campaign
USAG Stuttgart

Last year, members of the Stuttgart military community gave nearly \$2 million to charities through the Combined Federal Campaign.

When you note that \$34 provides a meal for 100 homeless individuals, \$70 buys 35 coffee plants for farmers who suffered crop losses after a hurricane, and \$150 screens 30 women for cervical cancer, the \$2 million given by this community has the potential to make a tremendously positive impact on the lives of hundreds of people around the world. My hope for the CFC is that our community continues the tradition of giving generously this year.

The CFC is an efficient way to give

because it allows you to give directly from your payroll to multiple causes - think less paperwork to track down come tax time. Additionally, every charity that receives funds through the CFC has been screened through the application process. The published charity listing allows donors to learn more about each charity and see what percentage of the charity's funds go to administrative

costs.

The CFC has numerous charities to choose from and each dollar given has the potential to make a difference in someone's life. You can find your cause today and pledge online at cfcoverseas.org.

If you prefer to donate by using a paper pledge form, there will be informational tables with pledge forms, informational cards and a charity listing at the main Exchange, Panzer Kaserne, and at the Patch Commissary, during the month of December. Remember, when making a pledge, you must select a charity that you would like to support.

Your participation in the CFC could also help your unit receive an award. For example, if 40 percent of a unit participates in the CFC or \$60 per capita is given by a unit, that unit will receive a Bronze Award Plaque. Awards are not limited to military units; they include directorates, schools and offices made up of civilian professionals. For your unit, directorate, office, or school to receive credit for your participation, you will need to be sure to select the correct "Department," "Agency," and "Office" when you create an

account to give online. If you choose to give using a paper pledge form, you'll need to enter the correct "Office" code. To obtain the correct information, please contact your Community Area Project Officer (CAPO).

CAPOs are assigned to assist community members with the CFC based on geographical areas. If you're stationed in Stuttgart, your unit will fall within one of the following three areas of responsibility for purposes of the CFC. The CAPO for EUCOM is Lt. Col. Dianna Lebedev; for AFRICOM, Jonathan Trussell; for USAG Stuttgart, myself (Debra Peake).

Come continue the tradition of giving generously and "Show Some Love" by visiting an informational table to get the information you need to make your pledge this year.

(Note: Information for this article was taken from the CFC materials.)



The Citizen

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Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Cheerleaders for the Kansas City Chiefs football team enjoy fine dining at the 10th SFG DFAC, Nov. 15.



Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

It's a buyers' and a sellers' market at the Swabian Special Events Center, Nov. 4, for the garrison's fall flea market.

November into December: What was and what will be

By John Reese
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Patch Barracks was the location of three events, Nov. 4, all well-attended. First, a very busy flea market was held at the Swabian Special Events Center. Dozens of tables filled the rooms and hallways, and scores of shoppers looked for hidden treasures. Next was a day of "Dungeons and Dragons" at the Patch Library. Finally, there was the Baby Expo in the Patch Community Club.

The USAG Stuttgart Fire Department hosted the Neckarbischofsheim Junior Firefighters, Nov. 11. Every year the group organizes a trip for the children to visit a different fire station to learn about fire operations, this was the first time the group visited with firefighters of the garrison in Stuttgart. Robinson Barracks' new

community center, the RB Zentrum (RBZ), opened in Bldg. 168, Nov. 13, for community members and non-profit organizations to hold events and activities. What makes it different is that the center is operated by volunteers. The idea came from a town hall held in April. Visit www.stuttgartcitizen.com to see what events are scheduled, or email rbzentrum168@gmail.com to schedule use of the RBZ.

Following the grand opening of the RBZ, the first of four annual community lantern walks in the garrison housing communities departed the center, hosted by RB leaders. The other three housing communities held lantern walks, Nov. 16-18, led by Stuttgart Family & Morale, Welfare and Recreation SKIES (School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills) program German teacher Sandra

Butsch-Schill. These walks have been part of the Stuttgart military community for more than a decade.

A blood drive conducted by the American Red Cross - Stuttgart Station in cooperation with the Armed Service Blood Program collected units on Patch Barracks, Nov. 14, and - Panzer Kaserne, Nov. 15.

"It was wonderful," said Shetera Butler, ARC volunteer. "This is many more people than I expected to see to come out and donate blood."

The ASBP's weekly goal is to draw 100 units of blood in a week. "Stuttgart gave 105 units in two days," said Jason Kalinowski, regional program specialist, ARC.

Six cheerleaders from the Kansas City Chiefs football team visited Panzer Kaserne, Nov. 15. The ladies provided and autographed cheerleader team photos, joined

community members for lunch at the 10th Special Forces Group dining facility, stopped by the blood drive in the Panzer Fitness Center, visited the USO and performed a routine at the main Exchange.

The community observed Native American Indian Heritage Month event with a cake cutting at the Panzer Exchange, Nov. 20, and cultural food samplings with a viewing of the film "Wind Talkers," the story about the Navaho code talkers during World War II, at the Kelley Club, Nov. 22. This year's theme was "Standing Together."

An "Ugly Sweater Run" takes place 9 a.m., Dec. 16, at the Patch Fitness Center. Come proudly run 5k in your most embarrassing, hideous sweater. This is the last run of the year hosted by Family & Morale, Welfare and Recreation.



Photo courtesy of USAG Stuttgart Fire Department

USAG Stuttgart Fire Department hosted the Neckarbischofsheim Junior Firefighters visit to the garrison Fire Dept., Nov. 11. Every year the group organizes a trip for the children to visit different fire stations.



Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Soldiers from the 10th SFG donate blood in the Panzer Fitness Center for the ASBP/Red Cross. More blood (105 units) was donated by Stuttgart community members over two days than the ASBP's weeklong goal of 100 units.



Photo by Larry Reilly, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Girl Scouts take to the stage during the Patch Barracks Tree Lighting Ceremony, Nov. 30.

Stuttgart community lights up the holiday season

By USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

The Stuttgart Community kicked off its 2017 holiday season with tree lighting ceremonies at four of its five installations Nov. 27- Dec. 1.

On Nov. 27, community members at Robinson Barracks gathered in front of bldg. 168 to sing Christmas carols, light the tree and meet with Santa Claus.

On Nov. 28, community members at Panzer Kaserne weathered the rain and cold as they gathered outside main exchange to kick off the holiday season with a tree lighting and entertainment.

On Nov. 30, community members at Patch Barracks gathered at the post chapel where

they were covered in snow and serenaded by singer/song writer Danika Portz, who joined dozens of Girl Scouts in singing holiday songs.

On Dec. 1, community members at Kelley Barracks gathered at the post flag to kickoff the holiday season with a tree lighting ceremony as well as indulging in a winter fest held by members of the AFRICOM team.

At most of the tree lighting ceremonies, special guest appearances were made by Santa Claus via a decorated fire truck, Stuttgart Girl Scouts, the Bell Choir and the Stuttgart High School Dancers.

For more photos from the four tree lighting ceremonies, visit: www.flickr.com/photos/usagstuttgart/albums/72157687820778912.



Photo by Larry Reilly, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Santa Claus makes an appearance at the Panzer Kaserne Exchange, Nov. 28.



Photo by Holly DeCarlo-White, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The Zarate children meet Santa Claus at Robinson Barracks, Nov. 27.

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Magical spell: Enjoy holiday season in Germany

By Carola Meusel
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Christmas in Germany casts a magical spell on cold and dark winter days. It's a time to celebrate long-standing family traditions, regional customs and values.

During their everyday routine, Germans pause and sit back to enjoy Christmas cookies, meet with family and friends at home or go to the many local Christmas markets, where they can taste hot Glühwein and Christmas punch.

The holiday season in Germany officially begins with Advent. Historically, Advent is the season in which Christians awaits the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas day.

An Advent tradition in Germany is the Advent wreath. The wreath is made out of fir tree branches and decorated with dried fruits, pine cones, glittering Christmas ball ornaments or stars. Four candles represent the light brought into the world by Jesus Christ. A candle is lit each Sunday until Christmas Eve.

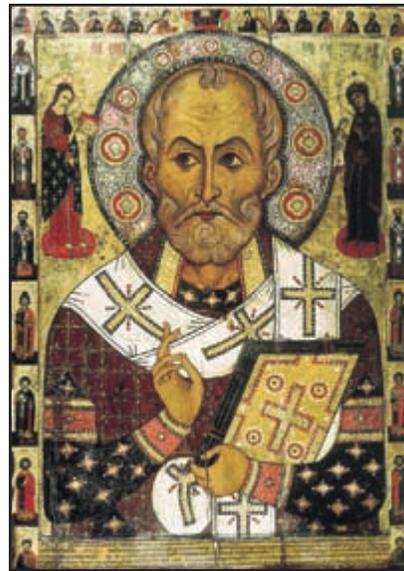
During the 20th century, the Advent calendar was introduced in Germany to help count down the days before Christmas Eve ("Heilig

Abend," or holy evening). The typical Advent calendar is made out of paper and has 24 doors, one to open each day from Dec. 1-24. Children will find holiday season-inspired images or chocolate behind the paper doors. Some calendars also have boxes or small bags filled with presents to open each day.

Most people in Germany also begin to bake Christmas cookies, such as cinnamon stars, gingerbread and "Gutsle," or Swabian shortbread cut-out cookies, during the Advent season.

Dec. 6 marks the birthday of Nikolaus, or Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (known today as Turkey), and is celebrated in Germany as St. Nicholas' Day. Legend has it that on his birthday, Nikolaus would don his precious bishop's coat, fill a big sack with nuts, apples, tangerines and honey cake, and load it on the back of his donkey. He then picked up his staff and walked along the streets, giving away the food to those he met.

Today, children place their boots outside their doors on the night of Dec. 5 in hopes that St. Nikolaus will leave some goodies in their shoes. Early on Dec. 6, most children



St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra

find their boots filled with candy, gingerbread, toys, tangerines and nuts. In other cases, St. Nikolaus, also called "Weihnachtsmann," (Christmas man) visits children during the day in kindergartens and schools, or makes a grand entrance during the evening hours at home.

He is often accompanied by his helper, Knecht (servant) Ruprecht. Knecht Ruprecht carries all the presents for the children in a big sack on his back and has a birch

switch hanging from his belt for those children who misbehaved during the year. While St. Nikolaus typically has a long white beard and wears a red coat with a red Santa hat, Knecht Ruprecht wears a brown or black coat and has a long gray beard.

In Germany, Christmas Eve is celebrated with close family. Traditionally, the gift exchange takes place in the afternoon, followed by a festive meal. The choice of meal varies from goose with red cabbage, dumplings or potatoes, to fish, or, typical for Swabia, Saitenwürstle (sausages) with potato salad.

Many people in Germany visit extended family and friends on Dec. 25 and 26, also called the first and second Christmas days.

Whether you're German or American, the holiday season can be filled with laughter, joy and even a little bit of magic. Sitting around the Christmas tree with family and loved ones, unwrapping presents and nibbling on Christmas cookies together makes for a special time and memory to share.

In the words so many Germans will be saying to each other this month: "Fröhliche Weihnachten" (Merry Christmas)!



Glühwein: The Winter Wine of Germany

Glühwein, a mulled wine, is a popular drink in Germany during the holiday season. The name, Gluchwein, translates into "Glow Wine" referring to the hot iron used for mulling. In the past, when the wine started deteriorating and the thrifty folks were reluctant to throw it away, they came up with the idea of adding spices and honey to make it drinkable once more. Thus, a wine similar to Glühwein came into existence.

Overtime, spiced wine became a staple for the majority of Europe and the Middle East, since it kept people warm during the cold, winter months of the year. Due to the wine containing aphrodisiac and medicinal properties, it turned even more popular in various parts of Europe. The first tankard containing Glühwein is attributed to a German nobleman named Count IV of Katzenelnbogen. The tankard dates back to the year 1420, which marks the first appearance of Glühwein.

Recipe

The following recipe will serve four people and its preparation time is 30 minutes.

Ingredients

- 750 ml of red dry wine
- 100 ml water
- 3 tbsp sugar
- ½ sliced lemon
- 2 cloves
- 1-star anise
- Two cardamom pods
- Two cinnamon sticks

Preparation

1. Take a large saucepan or a pot and heat red wine in it. Ensure that you do not boil the wine as the boiling process will lead to evaporation of alcohol.
2. Take a sliced lemon, cloves, star anise, cardamom pods, cinnamon sticks, sugar and add it to the wine in the saucepan.
3. Stir the mixture until the sugar in it dissolves completely. Simmer it gently for 10-15 minutes. Make sure not to let it boil even a bit.
4. Remove all the added ingredients from the mixture. These ingredients will leave its flavor in the wine.
5. Portion it out in individual glasses and relish its taste
6. If you do not have heatproof glasses, make use of regular glasses by placing them in warm water for approximately 10 minutes and then pour hot Glühwein in them. It would prevent your glasses from developing cracks.
7. Glühwein can be enjoyed warm as well as chilled. You can store it in a bottle and place it in a refrigerator for further use.

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Drowsy driving a major problem

Centers for Disease Control
News Release

The risk, danger, and often tragic results of drowsy driving are alarming. Drowsy driving is the dangerous combination of driving and sleepiness or fatigue. This usually happens when a driver has not slept enough, but it can also happen due to untreated sleep disorders, medications, drinking alcohol or shift work.

No one knows the exact moment when sleep comes over their body. Falling asleep at the wheel is clearly dangerous, but being sleepy affects your ability to drive safely even if you don't fall asleep. Drowsiness makes drivers less able to pay attention to the road, slows reaction time if you have to brake or steer suddenly, and affects a driver's

ability to make good decisions.

Researchers estimate that more than 70 million Americans suffer from a sleep disorder. (Institute of Medicine, 2005).

An estimated one in 25 adult drivers (aged 18 years or older) report having fallen asleep while driving in the previous 30 days. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that drowsy driving was responsible for 72,000 crashes, 44,000 injuries, and 800 deaths in 2013. However, these numbers are underestimated and up to 6,000 fatal

crashes each year may be caused by drowsy drivers.

Who's more likely to drive drowsy? Drivers who do not get enough sleep or who have with untreated sleep disorders such as sleep apnea; commercial drivers who operate vehicles such as tow trucks, tractor trailers, and buses; shift workers (work the night shift or long shifts); drivers who use medications that make them sleepy.

If you experience any warnings signs such as yawning or blinking

frequently, drifting from your lane or hitting a rumble strip on the side of the road, pull over to rest or change drivers. Simply turning up the radio or opening the window are not effective ways to keep you alert.

There are a few things you should do before taking the wheel to prevent driving while drowsy.

Most adults need at least seven hours of sleep a day. Stick to a sleep schedule. If you have a sleep disorder or have symptoms of a sleep disorder such as snoring or feeling sleepy during the day, talk to your physician about treatment options. Avoid drinking alcohol or taking medications that make you sleepy. If you notice the warning signs of drowsy driving, pull over to a safe place and take a 15 - 20-minute nap or change drivers.



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The Stuttgart High School Advanced Chorus and Harmony Express perform "The Messiah," in English, with the Stuttgart German American Community Chorus and the Pfaffinger Gospel Chorus, Dec. 9. with a professional orchestra and local professional soloists. The performance will be at St. Leonhardskirche, Leonhardsplatz 1, Stuttgart. Limited tickets available from SHS teacher Alan Landers. 20€ for adults and 10€ for high school and younger.

Here's what's happening at Stuttgart's DoDEA schools

By USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Free Speech

Robinson Barracks Elementary School teacher Betty Roberts facilitated a debate, Nov. 1, between gifted 4th and 5th grade students about a 1969 landmark free speech case. Two RBES teams debated whether or not the prohibition of students wearing the black armbands as peaceful protest violated their First Amendment rights in 1965.

Students researched the protest years of the 1960s, popular culture, the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War and the Bill of Rights in the Constitution as a work in progress. Debaters made detailed statements, animated slides and dressed in period costumes. "When students study and debate landmark cases such as Tinker vs. Des Moines, they develop an understanding of why the concept of free speech according to the First Amendment is not fully understood and must be reviewed by Supreme Court judges from time to time," Roberts said.

STEM

The following day, RBES

became a hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Math, and Engineering) museum, Nov. 2, with activities geared towards creating excitement about all things STEM.

Teachers provided learning activities such as examining fingerprints, testing surface tension and the physics of making catapults. The students participated multi-age, round-robin group sessions.

A noncommissioned officer from the 3rd Military Police Group taught classes on science-based strategies used by criminal investigators to find clues at a crime scene.

Variation on a familiar carol

"A Fairy Tale Christmas Carol," a takeoff of Charles Dicken's classic, will be performed by the Patch Middle School Drama Club, 6 p.m., Dec. 13. In this version, Mother Goose is the narrator Scrooge is the Big Bad Wolf, and Bob and Mrs. Crachit are Philip and Cinderella Charming. The 25 7th and 8th grade students have been working on this production since the beginning of the school year.

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FINDING Weihnacht

The holiday season is about to begin and it's time for the many Christmas markets known to Germans as "Weihnachtsmärkte," or "Christkindlesmärkte."

The following list will provide you with information on some of the most popular markets throughout the region. So venture out, explore and take in the season's offerings. After all, Christmas markets are a treat for all senses — a feast for your eyes, ears, taste buds and soul.

Stuttgart

Open until Dec. 23: The Stuttgart Christmas market is located in the downtown area and spans from Marktplatz to Schillerplatz, Karlsplatz and Schlossplatz. With more than 250 festive booths and attractions, it is considered one of Europe's largest Christmas markets.

Children of all ages can enjoy an ice rink, a small Ferris wheel and a miniature train. A Finnish Christmas village can be found at Karlsplatz. The market will be open Monday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. On Nov. 29, the market will be open from 5-9 p.m. and Dec. 16 (long shopping night) from 10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Stuttgart's "Wintertraum," or winter's dream village, is located on Königstrasse, next to Schlossplatz, and features an ice skating rink and various booths selling Christmas market-inspired food and beverages, such as Bratwurst, Crêpe, roasted almonds, Glühwein and more. Wintertraum open until Jan. 1, 2018. Wintertraum will be open daily from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. For special opening hours, visit www.wintertraum-stuttgart.de.



Ludwigsburg

Until Dec. 23: A baroque-inspired Christmas village is located in Ludwigsburg's historic downtown area. The market is illuminated by arches and gates made up of thousands of tiny lights. More than 170 stands offer Christmas decorations, handmade candles, jewelry and much more. The market is also famous for its freshly baked gingerbread and "Holzofendinnee," or Swabian pizza. The market is open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Schorndorf

Until Dec. 20: The Schorndorfer "Weihnachtswelt," or Christmas world, will be held throughout the historic downtown to include the market square in front of the town hall.

A life-size nativity scene, sheep, arts and crafts and seasonal food and beverages will be offered. The market will be open Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Rudersberg

Dec. 8-10/ Dec. 15-17/ Dec. 22-23: Enjoy the season at the "Adventswald," or advent forest, in Rudersberg (Rems-Murr district). Large fir trees will turn the "Alte Rathausplatz" into a festively-illuminated advent forest and Christmas market with cherished offerings of the season all provided by local vendors. Visitors can indulge in Swiss raclette (melted Swiss cheese), "Maroni," or roasted chestnuts, homemade organic potato chips and cherry Glühwein.

The advent forest will be open on weekends only: Friday from 5-10 p.m., Saturday from 2-10 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Herrenberg

Dec. 8-10: More than 50 decorated booths will offer a colorful array of gifts, crafts, food and more. The market will be open Friday from 2-8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sindelfingen

Dec. 8-10: The Sindelfingen Christmas Market will be held throughout the downtown area. The market will offer handmade arts and crafts, entertainment, a live nativity scene, a historic merry-go-round, food and Glühwein. The market will be open Dec. 8 from 6-10 p.m., Dec. 9 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Dec. 10 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Esslingen

Until Dec. 22: Esslingen's medieval Christmas market features over 180 booths and huts in the city

center. Costumed vendors offer arts and crafts, food and drink, plus there's plenty of entertainment, such as jugglers, fire-breathers and jousting. The market will open Nov. 28 at 4 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The market will be open Sunday to Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Thursday to Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. On Dec. 22, the market is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Leinfelden

Dec. 9-10: The "Engelesmarkt," or angel's market, is located at "Neuer Markt" in downtown Leinfelden. The market features a holiday concert and choir performance Dec. 9 at 3 to 9 p.m. Small booths offer arts and crafts, food and homemade baked goods. The market is open Dec. 10 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fellbach

Until Dec. 20: The market is located in the downtown area and spans around the city's town hall. Music, festively-decorated booths, a fairy-tale tent and an ice skating rink are also featured. The market will be open Monday to Friday from noon to 8 p.m., Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Echterdingen

Dec. 9/ Dec. 16/ Dec. 23: The "Adventszauber," or Advent magic, will be held at Rathausplatz in the downtown area. Shoppers can enjoy "Bratwürste," or brats, and Glühwein as well as live music and choir performances by local clubs and associations. The market will be open on Saturdays only from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tübingen

Dec. 15-17: The market spans throughout Tübingen's historic downtown area and features hundreds of decorated huts and booths set up in front of the city's beautiful half-timbered houses.

If you are looking for an extraordinary holiday gift, Tübingen is the ideal place. Most of the goods offered are handmade: jams and honey, shawls,

A LOCAL Christmas Market

gloves, ceramics, toys, paintings, candles and Christmas tree decorations. The market will open Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Chocoholics beware: Tübingen will host the "ChocolART" chocolate festival Dec. 5-10. The festival will feature more than 100 chocolatiers from Europe, South and North America, and Africa offering fine chocolate creations. Chocoholics will be glad to hear that they can sample all chocolates on the spot. Open Tuesday from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Cannstatt World Christmas Market

Until Dec. 23: The World Christmas Market will be held in the historic center of Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt.

The Christmas market spans around the Gothic city church and the town hall, along Marktstrasse all the way to Erbsenbrunnen fountain with lots of attractions. The market is open daily from noon to 9 p.m. Patrons can indulge in holiday-inspired foods, drinks, gifts and a special stage program with music and dance performances. This year, the market will feature a small Christmas garden at the city church, where visitors can sit in front of bonfires between Christmas trees to enjoy a festive ambiance. The "Niklasmarkt" will be held Dec. 9, at the market square and along Marktstrasse from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Heidelberg

Until Dec. 22: The Christmas market will be held in Heidelberg's picturesque downtown area. More than 140 vendors will offer magical presents and souvenirs, Glühwein, holiday-inspired foods and more. An ice rink will be located at Karlsplatz. The market will be open Sunday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Rothenburger Reiterlesmarkt

Open until Dec. 23, Every year, medieval Rothenburg transforms into a winter fairy tale. Since the 15th century, the festive Advent season is accompanied by a wonderful Christmas market. This market can look back on more than 500 years of living tradition, and since that time, there has been little change in its historical origins. Highlights of the market include the performances of the eponymous "Rothenburger Reiterle", which has its origins in the distant past. Even today, the winding streets and squares are lined with the Town Hall, its vaults and the market square of Buden, where you can see everything that your heart and palate desire:

Old German Christmas cookies, the popular white mulled wine, artisanal small and large

treasures as a memory and gifts. Visitors can enjoy the magnificent view over the Reiterlesmarkt from the Town Hall Tower on Fridays and Saturdays until 7 p.m.



Weihnachtsmarkts in Castles

Durlach

Nov. 28 to Dec. 22: The medieval Christmas market in Durlach, near Karlsruhe, features medieval traditions such as brewing "Met," or honey wine, jousting tournaments and fire-breathers, as well as glass blowing, gift huts and more. The market is located at Schlossplatz in front of the "Karlsburg" Castle and will be open Sunday to Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Thursday to Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Hechingen

Dec. 8-10: The Burg Hohenzollern Royal Christmas market claims to be one of the most romantic German Christmas markets held in a castle setting. Visitors can enjoy the castle's atmosphere and history while shopping for family and friends in the castle's courtyard and ramparts. There is an entry fee of €10 for visitors 17 and over, which includes parking and a shuttle bus service. The market will be open Friday from

2-8 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Neuenbürg

Dec. 9-10: The Advent Market will be held in and around the Neuenbürg Castle and makes for one of the most festive Christmas markets in the region. The castle was built 1200 A.C. by the Dukes of Calw-Vaihingen. More than 70 vendors will offer arts and crafts, wooden sculptures, jewelry, felted accessories and more. Holiday-inspired food and beverages and musical entertainment will also be provided. The market will be open Dec. 9 from 2-9 p.m. and Dec. 10 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Parking will be available downtown Neuenbürg and shuttle buses will take visitors from "Wilhelmshöhe," "Rathaus" and "Schloss" stops to and from the castle. Shuttle bus tickets cost €1 per person.

Maulbronn Monastery

Dec. 9-10: The Maulbronn Monastery is one of the most well-preserved medieval monasteries north of the Alps. During the Christmas market, visitors can take in the historic atmosphere while enjoying sugar cookies, Glühwein, Bratwurst and "Schupfnudeln," or Swabian potato noodles. The market offers arts and crafts, felted accessories, jewelry, home decor, Christmas decorations and fine honey products. Musical performances also create a festive atmosphere throughout the market. The market will be open Dec. 9 from noon to 9 p.m. and Dec. 10 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Bruchsal

Dec. 8-11 and Dec. 15-17: Bruchsal's baroque castle serves as the backdrop for a romantic fairytale Christmas market. Visitors can enjoy Glühwein, shop for gifts, taste fresh Weihnachtsstollen (sweet Christmas bread) or simply enjoy the live music. The market will be open Friday and Saturday from 3-9 p.m., Sunday from 1-9 p.m., and Dec. 11 from 3-9 p.m.

Stettenfels-Heilbronn

Dec. 17-18: Burg (fortress) Stettenfels in Untergruppenbach, near Heilbronn, will hold a medieval Christmas market. Visitors can stroll through the castle's courtyards and outer buildings to shop and enjoy the season's offerings. Glühwein, gingerbread, and "Stollen," or sweetened fruit bread, as well as decorations and candles can be purchased. Entrance to the fortress is €5 for adults; children 15 years old and under are free. On Dec. 17, the market will be open from 1-9 p.m. and Dec. 18 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Bring holiday cheer

Support on the community Angel Tree at the main Exchange, Panzer Kaserne, through Dec. 15, by selecting angel ornaments representing military families E1-E5, and civilian grades GS 6 or NAF equivalent and below, who are experiencing financial. All branches of the military are able to participate in the program. Gifts can be dropped off at ACS (Bldg. 2915) or at the main Exchange customer service desk.

Coordinate evacuations

Evacuation Coordinator Training classes will be held the last Thursday of every month, 1:30 p.m., at the garrison Fire Department (Bldg. 3180, Waldburgstraße 104, 71032 Böblingen, just north of the Panzer housing area). Pre-register to attend. These classes are mandatory in accordance with AR420-1. Call 430-2065 or 0711-680-2065.

Mail early!

To get your cards and packages where you want them on time, the garrison



Army Post Offices are open Saturdays through Dec. 16. The deadline for Parcel Air Lift, Priority and 1st class mail is Dec. 11; for Express Mail, Dec. 15. All Community Mail Rooms are open, Saturdays, through Jan. 6. Check your mail daily to pick up your packages as they arrive; the CMRs simply don't have space to contain the amount of incoming mail. Visit www.stuttgartcitizen.com for more.

Family ice skating

The military community hockey club, the Stuttgart Mustangs, will host free family skating at its home rink in Wernau, Dec. 9. Visit www.facebook.com/groups/smc.hockey/.

New Year's Eve Party

Ring in the New Year at the Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center, Bldg. 2998, Panzer Kaserne, starting at 8 p.m. This event is open to the entire family in a fun and safe environment. Registration and ticket sales are available until Dec. 28 for \$35 per adult and \$20 per child, which includes bowling, buffet, & party favors, or \$20 for general admission, which includes entry and buffet.

Plan and check office hours

Thanksgiving has passed and the holiday season is in full swing. Be sure to plan services or appointments in advance as offices on and off-post may have limited hours, services or closures through early January. The Education Center (Bldg. 2915), Panzer Kaserne will be closed Dec. 22 - Jan. 1; the Military Personnel Division (Passports/SOFA/ID Cards etc.) will have reduced office hours, Dec. 18-29, closing at 3:30 p.m.; Vehicle Inspection and Registration will have limited staffing, so make an appointment to avoid frustration and waiting times. Visit www.stuttgart.army.mil for holiday closure announcements or call ahead to confirm office hours.

See the sights with MWR Tours

The MWR Tour Office is now open to help community members plan the perfect tour during their stay in the Stuttgart military community, whether it is a tour on a holiday or a personalized group tour. They are located Bldg. 2915 Room 312B, Panzer Kaserne, or visit them on the MWR website for the latest

information and tours.

Take dinner home for the holidays

One of the greatest traditions of the holidays is dinner with family and friends. Living overseas can make this difficult financially, logistically. To receive a holiday meal from the USO sign by Dec. 16 by registering on the USO Facebook, website or stop by the USO. Meal pick-up is at the USO Dec. 25 from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.



USO volunteer orientation

To begin the volunteer onboarding and learn more about how to become part of the USO family, register at www.volunteers.uso.org and attend the orientation at the USO Center at 12:30 p.m., Dec. 29. The USO Center is located in Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne. Email questions to programs. stuttgart@uso.org.

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Dry trees plus old lights, open flames lead to danger

By John Reese
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

You've just picked out the perfect real tree by purchasing it early. Now a few safety pointers from the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Fire Department can help prevent it from going up in flames.

Faulty decorative lights, unsafe extension cords, open flames such as candles or locating trees too close to a fireplace, and devices such as space heaters are the primary causes for home fires during the holidays. Electrical fires account for a quarter of tree fires, and while fires ignited by open flames have decreased in the U.S., they still account for too many avoidable fires.

Americans have become better at preventing holiday tree fires. Statistics from 1980 to 2014 show a dramatic reduction in the number of holiday tree fires, and while they are less common now, those that do occur generate great heat and spread quickly, resulting in property loss, injuries and fatalities.

"Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in 35 percent of home Christmas tree fires," said Assistant Chief Len Fagan, USAG Stuttgart FD. "Eighteen percent of home Christmas tree fires involved decorative lights; wiring or related equipment was involved in

11 percent and cords or plugs were involved in 4 percent."

With few exceptions like the chaplaincy using candles for services, the use of open flame and candles is prohibited in all community facilities, Fagan said.

After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. If you are going on holidays between Christmas and New Year's you should dispose of your tree if there is no one home to water it daily while you are gone.

"On average, one out of every 34 reported home Christmas tree fires resulted in a death, compared to an average of one death per 142 total reported home fires," Fagan said.

A dry tree burns hot and fast, but a well-watered tree won't, according to a test conducted by the National Fire Prevention Association.

"Seven trees were allowed to dry out for three weeks, while the eighth had been cut fresh and kept in a bucket of water. The first seven trees had dry needles that were slightly brown and brittle and fell when a branch was shaken," NFPA reported. "The eighth tree had greener pliable needles that did not separate from



Photo courtesy of City of Worcester, Mass. Fire Department

the tree as easily. An electric match easily ignited the first seven trees, but the electric match did not ignite the eighth tree that had been kept moist."

Fires involving artificial trees are significantly less likely than real trees. Still, anything involving electricity such as built-in lights or strings of lights, real or artificial tree, should be checked every year before plugging it in.

"Check this out ... Christmas lights do not actually ignite tree fires very often," Fagan said.

Fagan referenced an episode of

the television show "Myth Busters" where the hosts trimmed a tree with five times the number of manufacturer recommend strands of lights on a deliberately dried pine tree.

Although the temperature rose to 225 F, the tree didn't ignite. The danger from decorative tree lights comes from old, frayed wires with sparks contacting the dry tree, not the number of strands on a tree. If you intend on "going Griswald" on your tree (or anywhere in or on your home), insure your wires are all in good shape.



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Experiencing 'Sylvester' in downtown Stuttgart

By Hannah Rhoden
Senior, Stuttgart High School
Special to The Stuttgart Citizen

The New Year's celebration in downtown Stuttgart is very different from anything I've ever experienced.

The crowds and occasional intoxicated wanderer were to be expected, but the level of disarray I witnessed was an entirely new experience. I was never afraid before when firecrackers popped, even if they were a little too close for comfort. Nonetheless, I found myself feeling a little frightened as I walked to meet my friends. The streets were crowded with people and fireworks exploded randomly in every direction.

Before I reached the meeting point, I was approached by an older, inebriated male stranger who asked me to accompany him back his house. After I quickly responded, "No!" and walked away, he aimed and lit a rocket directly behind me.

Instantly, fear ran through me; no one had ever had tried to harm

me with a firework. Astonished, I quickly walked away, now very conscious of my surroundings.

Eventually I made it to my friends. We walked around the downtown area people watching and taking it all in. We noticed that the bigger the group, the more the Polizei were watching. Looking back now, it was a wise choice to stick with a few close friends.

There is not much to do besides walk around aimlessly as we waited for midnight. This got tedious rather quickly. With an hour to go, we looked for a place to go indoors to warm up. However, the few places that were open were at full capacity. The restaurants were full of people who came with a game plan and booked in advance. We crouched around a small, two-person table, until just before midnight.

All chaos aside, the moment the clock struck midnight, the sky lit up and it was absolute bliss. For a good five minutes, it seemed as if every firework in the

downtown area had been set off. Then a thick cloud of smoke from the fireworks descended upon the crowd. Being my first time in downtown Stuttgart on New Year's Eve, the smoke was a surprise, as nothing could be seen. I stood still, uncertain of what to do or where to go for the duration of the temporary blindness. I felt as though I had stepped into a war zone.

Overall, the experience of celebrating New Year's was eye-opening, and yes, it was fun, but I would definitely change a few things based on what I learned if I were to do it over again.

If you plan to brave the crowds this year in downtown Stuttgart, here are a few tips: Have a meeting point with your friends in case you get separated; ensure your cell phone is charged, and has a pre-set emergency phone number in case you need to report something, and bring a backup battery; make



Photo by John Paul Tyrone Fernandez, Pexels

Fireworks are prohibited in all places under control of the garrison community to include on-post housing.

reservations to avoid the long waits before midnight; don't engage with strangers or go back to their homes; have a light to see in the post-fireworks fog; don't hesitate to approach a Polizei if you need help; and have some fun but don't get caught up in the chaos.



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Holiday Season isn't just for giving; but sharing

By Chaplain (Capt.) David L. Sprinkle
Battalion Chaplain, 10th Special Forces Group

My children love many things on this earth, and a good measure of those can be purchased at our local toy store or possibly the PX, depending on what time of year it is.

At the PX, I watch them play with toys, running up and down aisles looking at all the colors, shapes and frames — a sea of

paper and plastic packaging, partially encasing joy fodder. One of my children munches on my arm with a velociraptor hand puppet, producing guttural hisses interrupted by shrieks of joy.

The laughter of children is priceless. Their elation is soon interrupted by the Dad-Grinch (me, by the way), who maniacally commands them to return toys to the shelves and begin making their way to the register, where we stand still in line purchasing boring

jumped at the chance to pick up sticks off the ground and sword fight, with similar joy, squealing with happiness as they chase one another. Yet that time, when Dad-Grinch forced them to postpone their war, their sticks fell to the ground without a whimper.

What is the difference between these two situations? Their joy was the same, their displeasure not so much. The difference was the attachment to the objects they played with, their colors and novelty, which soon faded.

You know as well as I do that the holidays are a season of giving "things." We gather around every year, and give "things" to each other in colorful paper and ribbons to experience the joy of giving and receiving, the joy that is not found ultimately in "what" is given but in the interaction we have with each other.

Don't get lost in the beauty of the material world, hoping in

"things," but rather lose yourself in the activities that bind our families together, and the precious little time we have on this earth to experience them. Let's not take joy in the things we get and have, but in the people we love and the experiences that give ourselves to each other.

If you fulfill the royal law as expressed in this scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (James 2.8), you are doing well.

2017 Religious Service Holiday Schedule

Catholic Services

Dec. 8: Immaculate Conception, 11:45 a.m., Patch Chapel; 5:30 p.m., Panzer Chapel

Dec 13: Advent Penitential Service, 11:45 a.m., Kelley Theatre (Daily Mass); 5:30 p.m., Patch Chapel (Penitential Service)

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Mass, 9 a.m., Patch Chapel (Sunday Mass); 12 p.m., Robinson Barracks Chapel (Sunday Mass); 4:30 p.m., Panzer Chapel (Christmas Eve Mass); 8 p.m., Patch Chapel (Christmas Eve Mass)

Dec. 25: Christmas Day Mass, 12 p.m., Robinson Barracks Chapel; 5 p.m., Patch Chapel

Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Mass (Sunday Mass Schedule), 9 a.m., Patch Chapel; 12 p.m., Robinson Barracks Chapel; 5 p.m., Patch Chapel

Jan. 1: New Year's Day - No Mass (Not a Holy Day of Obligation)

Jewish Service

Dec. 15: Chanukah Celebration, 6 p.m., Panzer Chapel

Protestant Services

Dec. 24: 8:30 a.m., Liturgical, Panzer Chapel; 10:30 a.m., Contemporary, Panzer Chapel; 10 a.m., Robinson Barracks Chapel; 11 a.m., Traditional, Patch Chapel; 12:30 p.m., Gospel, Panzer Chapel

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5 p.m., Patch Chapel; 6 p.m., Robinson Barracks Chapel

No protestant services on Christmas and New Year's Day.



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Epsom salt. Wailing ensues. A thought occurs to me that their joy sounded very similar to a previous incident when my children



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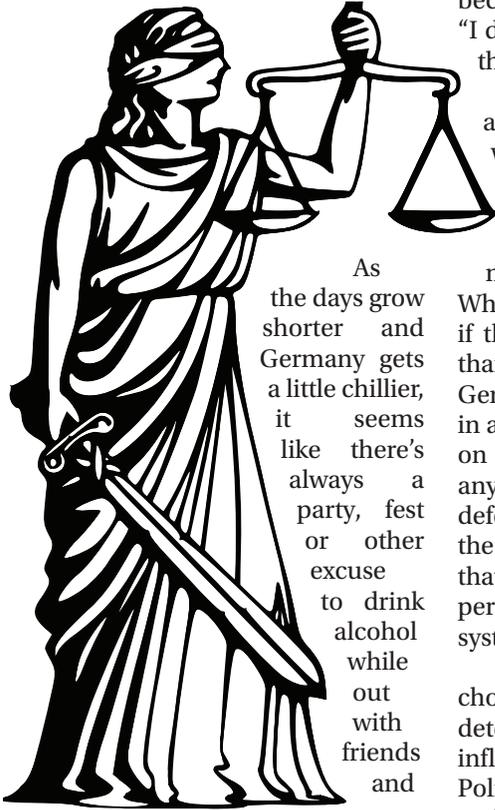
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Ask a JAG: Driving after drinking is one way to ruin the holidays

By Capt. Mathew N. Karchaske
Judge Advocate, Stuttgart Law Center



As the days grow shorter and Germany gets a little chillier, it seems like there's always a party, fest or other excuse to drink alcohol while out with friends and

family. And for those who drink, the temptation to drive your vehicle because, "It was only one or two," or "I don't even feel buzzed," is always there.

But the law in Germany, on and off post, isn't concerned with the number of drinks you've consumed or your buzz. The legal standard is based on alcohol concentration measured in your breath or blood.

Whether you just aren't feeling it, or if that one beer was a little bigger than what you're used to, the limit in Germany is 0.05. For those involved in an accident, you can find yourself on the wrong end of the law with any alcohol in your system. It is no defense that you were not at fault in the accident or, absent an accident, that you operated the automobile perfectly with the alcohol in your system.

If you make the series of poor choices that lead to your arrest or detention for driving under the influence — make no mistake, the Polizei checkpoints are numerous and thorough — what happens next?

First, your command will be notified, likely followed by a reprimand in your permanent file. For active duty service members, this alone could be sufficient to trigger a potentially career-ending administrative board.

Sgt. Matthew Stevens, paralegal noncommissioned officer, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, said that it's the driver's responsibility to know the German DUI laws.

"Even if you are under the legal limit in the U.S., a violation of German law is sufficient to trigger a formal reprimand and other administrative consequences," Stevens said, adding that even getting in an accident on your bicycle with alcohol in your system can result in the loss of your driving privileges.

In addition to the reprimand, if you are on active duty, you can also receive non-judicial punishment under Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, resulting in extra duty, loss of rank, loss of pay, etc.

Additionally, even if you are not convicted of DUI in a civilian or

military court, you could still lose your clearance, be relieved from your position at work, and have the DUI noted in your annual evaluation.

"If you're going to have anything to drink, do not drive," said Capt. Scott Goble, former trial counsel, USAG Stuttgart. "A 20€ cab ride, that's not going to end a career; a DUI could."

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CHAMPIONS

Panther football goes undefeated; grabs DODEA-Europe Championship

By Kevin S. Abel
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The Stuttgart High School Panthers Football finished their season undefeated and became DoDEA-Europe's Division I champions after defeating the Ramstein Royals 26-21, Nov. 4, at Kaiserslautern High School Vogelweh.

Although they were the number one seed going into the game, the Royals were not going to just hand them the championship. The Panthers had their work cut out for them, despite their 22-9 win over the Royals earlier in the regular season, Sept. 15.

Stuttgart coach Billy Ratcliff gave credit to the Royals defense that tamed the Panthers running and passing game in the first half. "They blanketed our passing game and we weren't able to run on them as effectively as we did earlier in the season. We made some offensive mistakes early in the game that gave them a short field and they capitalized, but we were resilient and didn't quit."

"Our defense played well in the second half and came up with some key stops, and our offense made some key plays in the passing game to open things up," Ratcliff said.

During the second-half, the Panthers started controlling the game.

"We looked for opportunities to control the clock, move the chains, and although it wasn't pretty, we had a 17-play drive that kept their dynamic offense off the field for much of the 3rd quarter," Ratcliff said.

After falling behind 21-20 halfway through the fourth quarter, running back Devon Burton took



Photo by Michael B. Keller, Star and Stripes

The Stuttgart Panthers celebrate winning the DODEA-Europe Division I championship at Vogelweh, Germany, Nov. 4. Stuttgart defeated Ramstein 26-21 to win the title.

a handoff from quarterback Chris Magalona and ran down the middle of the field helping to seal the Panthers' victory over the Royals.

Burton summarized the postgame feelings of his teammates in a Stars and Stripes interview, "It's expected," Burton said of the Stuttgart title. "But we're humble."

Ratcliff explained that a lot of time, effort, hard work and creative chemistry is what it took to archive the championship title and an undefeated season.

"Players who felt the team had underachieved the previous year worked hard in the off-season to change that attitude into a winning

mentality," Ratcliff said. He also explained it wasn't just the hard work of the players that made it a winning season. "Coaches put in hundreds of hours of film review and preparation in addition to the actual practices and games."

In a team sport, it's not always about individuals, but what is best to make a team successful.

"Putting players in the right position to help the team and not necessarily what best showcases what position a player wants to play means selflessness and that had a huge impact on our success," Ratcliff explained.

By becoming the 2017 DoDEA-Europe's Division I champions, the Stuttgart High School football program delivered to the community a second title in three seasons.

"The undefeated season and also on winning the championship reflects favorably not just on the players, managers, and coaches, but the effort and support of the parents and community," Ratcliff said. "I think winning the football championship two of the past three years brings the program to the level of respectability of perennial powerhouses Wiesbaden and Ramstein."



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