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# The Citizen

Thursday, January 14, 2016 Sustaining & Supporting the Stuttgart U.S. Military Community Garrison Website: [www.stuttgart.army.mil](http://www.stuttgart.army.mil) Facebook: [facebook.com/USAGarrisonStuttgart](https://facebook.com/USAGarrisonStuttgart)

[stuttgartcitizen.com](http://stuttgartcitizen.com)



A look back as USAG Stuttgart moves forward

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**24/7 Hotline**   **SHARP** SM **SEXUAL HARASSMENT/ASSAULT RESPONSE & PREVENTION** **I AM THE FORCE BEHIND THE FIGHT**  
*Need to talk? Anonymous Support* **INTERVENE ★ ACT ★ MOTIVATE**  
 Sexual Assault Hotline 0631 413 7280 or DSN 484-7280 [SafeHelpline.org](http://SafeHelpline.org) 0611143 537 7233 *Sexual Assault Support for the DoD Community*

# A look back as USAG Stuttgart moves forward

By Army Col. Glenn Dickenson  
USAG Stuttgart Commander

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays and were able to spend some quality time with family and friends. A big thank you to all of the organizations and community volunteers who helped to make the season extra special. 2015 was a great year for the Stuttgart community, and I'm excited for what your garrison has to offer in 2016.

Together, in 2015, we celebrated the opening of new schools, made infrastructure improvements, and participated in lots of activities and events on-post. As we move into 2016, your garrison will continue to serve as the integrator of services to the organizations and people we support.

Our commitment to listen to the voice of the customer is stronger than ever. We welcome your feedback in-person at all of our front-door services, by using contact information on our official website, sending us a message on our official Facebook page, by using the Interactive Customer Evaluation



Col. Glenn K. Dickenson  
Commander, USAG Stuttgart

address areas for improvement across our footprint, and as we consolidate services to more efficiently serve the needs of the community.

Emergency services and security teams will keep safety and security in the forefront as we maintain our vigilance and address changing Force Protection needs. If you haven't already, sign-up for AtHoc to receive emergency notifications from the Installation Operations Center via email, telephone and mobile devices.

We will continue to communicate what is happening in our community through our official website, social media, AFN radio, *The Citizen* newspaper and *The Citizen* online.

(ICE) system, or even through your chain-of-command.

Feedback from you and your leadership in 2015 has encouraged us to review the services we provide, and has also sparked our initiative to make changes in 2016. Front-door services will work to become even more friendly and customer-focused. You will continue to see many of the services we offer, but you'll also experience some changes as we

Finally, USAG Stuttgart will also introduce a new Strategic Plan in 2016 with lines of effort designed to sustain and support service members, civilians, and family members living here. We are working to be the best joint military community in the world by improving delivery of services to supported units, and continuing to offer outstanding customer service.

The Stuttgart community has a lot to look forward to in 2016, that's why *I'm glad I live here!*



Your garrison team. — U.S. Army Photo by Martin Greeson.



Stuttgart view from Weissenburg Park — Photo by Bernd Schmidt

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# Back to School: First day in new high school



Photo by USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

By Megan Brown  
Special to The Citizen

*Editor's Note: The new school opening was Stuttgart's No. 1 story for 2015. This story originally ran in the Sept. 17 print edition of The Citizen.*

Back to school is an exciting time for parents, students, and teachers alike. Whether it's receiving schedules, meeting new teachers, or joining a sports team, there is always something to look forward to when it comes to the first day. This year offered more anticipation than usual, due to the long awaited opening of the brand new Stuttgart schools.

Panzer Kaserne welcomed high school and elementary students with state of the art facilities, such as a Culinary Arts room, four tennis courts, a football field with a track, and an auditorium that is comprised of a stage and a sound booth. The hallways are color coated to correlate with each subject, for example the math hall is pink. The elementary school features multiple new playgrounds, and a separate cafeteria.

Michelle Gelacio, high school Senior and member of the Stuttgart community for two years said, "(I'm) excited for Friday night football games, and to be the first graduating class at the new school."

Students began their first day at seminars, a daily study hall period, while those who had not yet received their schedules received them from volunteers.

Two class meetings were held in the morning; one for Freshmen and

Sophomores, and one for Juniors and Seniors. Students were greeted with thunderous applause as they stood up upon the request of administration. In the meeting, school policies and procedures were discussed, school counselors also spoke about scheduling issues, and graduation requirements. Principal Danny Robinson described how honored he is to work with "the best school in DoDDS (Department of Defense Dependents Schools)," and "the smartest kids in DoDDS."

At the start of the year, Juniors and Seniors may leave campus for lunch. While some did leave, for the most part, a lot of the students enjoyed eating on campus and in the courtyards outside.

After lunch, students attended all seven of their scheduled classes for 20 minutes each. This boldly packed schedule allowed students to get acquainted with their teacher's policies, and see the course outlines.

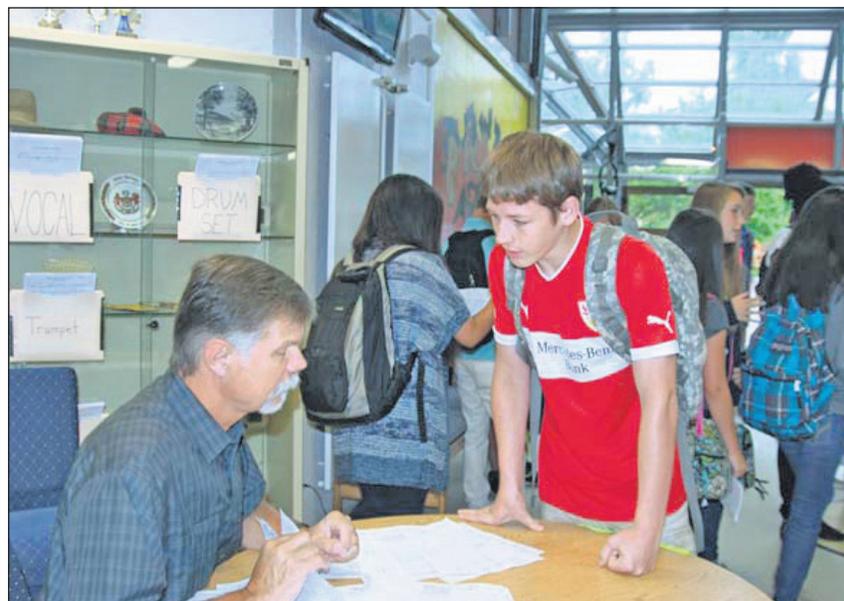
Despite the hectic weeks leading up to the first day of the new school and a few expected minor issues teachers and students ran into while settling in, such as a water fountain or light switch not working properly, overall, school opened smoothly and without a hitch.

The day ended with the teachers rushing out of the school as the fire alarm sounded. It was only burnt popcorn, but it was still a great way to test how the system worked, and a good way to end the first day of the 2015-2016 school year.

I expect that everyone will settle in nicely to the Panthers and Stallions new home.

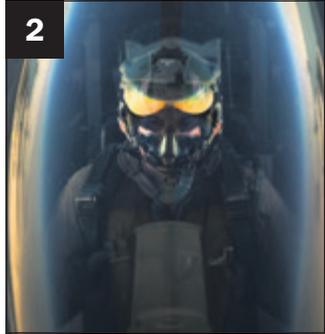


This aerial photo taken June 4 depicts progress of the new Panzer elementary and high school construction sites. — Photo by USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office



Summer registration at Patch High School. Principal Danny Robinson on left. — Photo by USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

# Year in Review: DoD highlights Top 10



Story and photos by U.S. Department of Defense

This special report highlights some of the Defense Department's most critical issues. While the department intensified its fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, Defense Secretary Ash Carter, who took office in February, launched initiatives to build the force of the future, seek breakthrough technologies and open opportunities for women. The department also continued missions in the Asia-Pacific region, Eastern Europe and Afghanistan, and emerged from budget uncertainty with a multiyear deal.

## The Fight Against ISIL (1)

U.S. and coalition forces have intensified their strategy for Operation Inherent Resolve, the mission to degrade and defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL. Daily airstrikes have destroyed ISIL oil facilities, weaponry and staging areas in both Iraq and Syria. Other targeted strikes have killed numerous ISIL leaders, and aided Iraqi and Kurdish ground offensives. Defense Secretary Ash Carter outlined the U.S. strategy to Congress in October.

## Force of the Future (2)

When Defense Secretary Ash Carter took office Feb. 17, he identified one of his top

priorities: building the "force of the future." In March, during his first domestic trip as secretary, he spoke to students at his high school alma mater, outlining ideas to attract and retain the nation's brightest men and women to the military. In April, he ordered a review of the department's personnel systems to develop proposals for reforms. Carter announced the initial reforms in a Nov. 18 speech including enhancements to the department's internship programs, designating a chief recruiting officer and modernizing the retirement system for service members.

## Asia-Pacific Rebalance (3)

Defense Secretary Ash Carter made three trips to the Asia-Pacific region in his first eight months in office. Carter's frequent visits signified the overall importance of the U.S. military's rebalance to a region he predicts will be the center of the world's economy.

## Multiyear Budget Deal (4)

The Defense Department dealt with budget uncertainty for most of 2015, marking a fourth year of facing the impacts of sequestration. In February, President Barack Obama sent Congress a base budget request of \$534.3 billion for fiscal 2016, plus \$51 billion in overseas contingency funds. The request was \$36 billion above fiscal 2016

sequestration caps, which defense and service leaders argued was necessary to maintain readiness amid numerous security challenges around the globe and in cyberspace. In late October, following weeks of negotiations, Congress and the White House agreed on two years of funding. The total included about \$580 billion for 2016, an amount defense leaders said would provide stability and help strike a balance between needs and resources.

## European Security (5)

Russia's destabilizing actions in Ukraine and Syria remain one of the dominant concerns for U.S. defense leaders going into 2016. The United States responded this year, conducting numerous military exercises with its NATO allies across Europe as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve. Trident Juncture, NATO's largest military exercise in more than a decade, involved more than 36,000 troops and 30 nations. In his most recent trip to Europe, Defense Secretary Ash Carter met with U.S. troops and his counterparts in Spain, Italy and England. He also attended NATO's meeting for defense ministers in Brussels where alliance leaders discussed Russian aggression, Afghanistan and the threat to NATO's southern flank. Carter said the Defense Department was adjusting its presence to help make NATO forces more agile, mobile and responsive.

## Tech Outreach (6)

Pushing the high-tech envelope became a top Defense Department goal in 2015. In an April trip to Silicon Valley, Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced the creation of Defense Innovation Unit-Experimental, or DIUx, to scout breakthrough technologies in the region and build relationships with innovators.

## Afghanistan Mission (7)

In October, President Barack Obama reinforced America's commitment to peace and stability in Afghanistan, announcing the United States would maintain its current level of 9,800 troops in the country through most of 2016. The president said the United States would stay focused on two critical missions: training Afghan forces and supporting counterterrorist operations against the remnants of al-Qaida.

## Women in Service (8)

Defense Secretary Ash Carter contends that maintaining the world's finest fighting force requires recruiting from the broadest possible pool of talent. In December, he announced that all military occupations and positions would be open to women beginning in January 2016, with no exceptions. This historic announcement came after three years of study. It means women will be eligible for an additional 220,000 jobs and

the promotions that come with them.

## Welcoming New Chiefs (9)

Ash Carter took office as the 25th defense secretary Feb. 17, bringing more than three decades of Pentagon experience with him. In a message to Defense Department personnel his first day on the job, Carter identified three top priorities: helping the president make and implement the best national security decisions, ensuring the strength and health of service members and civilians, and building the force of the future.

## DoD Disaster Response (10)

A massive earthquake in Nepal that killed almost 10,000 people kicked the Defense Department's disaster relief response into high gear in April. The department launched Operation Sahayogi Haat, which means "helping hand." Hundreds of U.S. military personnel delivered more than 120 tons of humanitarian aid to displaced Nepalese citizens. Closer to home, the National Guard responded to a blizzard that buried parts of the Northeast in January. About 1,000 Guardsmen battled wildfires in five Western states in August, and at least 1,000 Guardsmen responded to historic flooding in South Carolina in October.



# 2015 marks enormous advances for women

Compiled by David Vergun

WASHINGTON — Women's strides made big news throughout 2015, with graduating from Ranger School, to the appointment of the first black female Army surgeon general to Defense Secretary Ash Carter opening up all military occupational specialties, or MOSs, to women.

Here are some of the highlights:

## All occupations open to women

On Dec. 3, Carter announced that beginning in January 2016, all Defense Department positions will be open to women, without exception.

For the first time in U.S. military history, as long as they qualify and meet specific standards, the secretary said women will be able to contribute to the mission with no barriers at all in their way.

"They'll be allowed to drive tanks, fire mortars and lead infantry Soldiers into combat," Carter added. "They'll be able to serve as Army Rangers and Green Berets, Navy SEALs, Marine Corps infantry, Air Force parajumpers, and everything else that was previously open only to men."

Even more importantly, he said, the military services will be better able to harness the skills and perspectives that talented women have to offer.

## Women earn Ranger tab

For the first time in Army history, two women were among the Soldiers who received the coveted Ranger tab Aug. 21.

The two female Ranger School graduates were 1st Lt. Shaye L. Haver and Capt. Kristen M. Griest, both also graduates of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley, who attended the graduation, said Ranger School is the Army's "most grueling" leadership course, in a statement. The course no doubt stretched all 96 graduates "to and beyond their physical and emotional limits," he said.

"I'm proud of everything each of these Rangers has endured and I am confident they will go on to serve our Army and our nation. For those who have made it through this arduous course, you know that there is only one standard: The Ranger standard."

And then there was another.

When Maj. Lisa Jaster graduated from the Ranger course, Oct. 16, she became the third female Soldier to earn the Ranger tab.

A lesser known distinction setting Jaster apart was the fact that she is one of several thousand Soldiers, who serve



Acting Army Secretary Eric Fanning swears in Lt. Gen. Nadja West as the 44th surgeon general of the Army and commanding general of U.S. Army Medical Command, Dec. 11, 2015. — Photo by John Martinez

their country under the auspices of a specialized component of the Army's Select Reserve — the Individual Mobilization Augmentee, or IMA, program.

Jaster is a U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, graduate and mother of two, married to a Marine Corps Reserve officer. In her civilian career, she is a project manager with Shell Oil Co. — specializing in oilfield issues. As a Soldier with MOS, 12A, engineer, she transferred from active duty to IMA status in May 2012.

## A surgeon general first

Lt. Gen. Nadja West became the Army's first black surgeon general.

West became the Army's first female black lieutenant general and the highest-ranking woman to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

The Senate confirmed West Dec. 9 for the position and Acting Army Secretary Eric Fanning administered the oath of office to her Dec. 11, making her the Army's 44th surgeon general and commanding general of U.S. Army Medical Command, or MEDCOM.

The Army surgeon general provides advice and assistance to the Army secretary and chief of staff on all health care matters pertaining to the U.S. Army and its military health care system.

## Woman with two firsts

Brig. Gen. Diana Holland was named the first female commandant of cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. She assumed command as the

76th commandant of cadets during a ceremony scheduled at West Point, Jan. 5.

Acting Army Secretary Eric Fanning praised the selection of Holland. "Diana's operational and command experiences will bring a new and diverse perspective to West Point's leadership team," Fanning said. "She is absolutely the right person for this critical position."

"I am very honored to be named the next commandant of the U.S. Corps of Cadets," Holland said. "It's a privilege to be part of the team that trains and develops leaders of character for our Army. I look forward to continuing the legacy set by Maj. Gen. Thomson and all previous commandants."

Holland's other first was her previous assignment to 10th Mountain Division, which had never had a female general.

## First for Maryland

Maj. Gen. Linda Singh, the first black and first woman to serve as adjutant general of the Maryland National Guard, took command of the Maryland National Guard, Feb. 28.

"This is huge — just for the progress of women in leadership," Singh said.

Singh discussed the challenges of starting off in the Army as a young female enlisted Soldier in the 1980s. She recalled how, at the dawn of her career, a first sergeant told her that because of her pregnancy, she would not make it through advanced initial training. But of course she proved him wrong.

## Retrospective of progress

In recognition of Women's History

Month, the Army G-8 and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller held its fifth annual women's symposium, March 23.

Hosting the symposium, Lt. Gen. Karen E. Dyson, military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army (financial management and comptroller) and one of only five three-star women Soldiers, introduced the panel of two colonels and two Army senior executives.

"What you have here are some very complex women who are on our team and every one of them has a graduate degree and has either been through senior executive civilian training or one of the many war colleges," she said, adding that they had all worked at different levels and outside of the Army as well as in different defense agencies and at the White House.

"They really demonstrate to all of us, the richness that they've built within their own careers over the years by having the courage to travel," Dyson said. "When I say the courage, it does take a little bit of courage to travel, though for the colonels, it was a bit easier for us because we sort of got told along the way where we would be going."

"That might be a question to ask yourself — are you on a career path that you're happy with," she said. "Sometimes it's not our choice to travel, but it forces us out to do things, completely different things ... that can be marked by change and opportunity — sometimes the change creates the opportunity — sometimes the opportunity creates the change."

**ATTENTION SHOPPERS:**

The Panzer Exchange Main Store is scheduled to be closed all day, Tuesday, Jan. 26 for inventory.

**BUS SCHEDULE CHANGE**

Effective Jan. 4, 2016, changes to the weekday and holiday schedules include an added stop at the Vehicle Processing Center on Panzer Kaserne and a new stop on Robinson Barracks, Building 146. The Duty Bus schedule is available for view/download at <http://www.stuttgart.army.mil/> on the homepage, scroll down to the transportation section. Shuttle bus schedules are accessible only using Common Access Card (CAC) through the secure SharePoint portal.

**UPDATE RECORDS IN NEW YEAR**

The U.S. Army Garrison Directorate of Human Resources reminds all service members to review their personnel and financial military records in the New Year to ensure all information reflects their current life situation. Marital status, dependents, emergency notification points of contact, and addresses are just a few of the common areas that should be reviewed.

U.S. Army Soldiers, regardless of component, are required to update their individual Army Military Human Resource Record annually. The review should ensure their record are accurate, free of errors, and representative of all required documents. Records may be viewed via Army Knowledge Online.

**SOLDIER FOR LIFE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS**

The U.S. Army Garrison Soldier for Life Retiree Council in USAG Stuttgart seeks volunteers to fill the rolls of President, Vice President, and council member. Soldiers and their families are the veterans that are our ambassadors within in the community. Soldiers bring with them invaluable skills to include the Warrior Ethos and Army Values. They are Soldiers for Life Veterans that remain

strong, strengthen our communities and inspire future generations to serve. For more information on volunteering, contact DSN: 421-5005/civ. 0711-7295005.

**STUTTART RAISES \$270K FOR CFC-O**

Units across U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart raised \$270,000 for charities during the 2015 Combined Federal Campaign Overseas held Sept. 21 to Nov. 20.

The CFC is an annual workplace giving campaign for the five overseas unified combatant commands. Under this year's theme, "Give because you care!," Stuttgart U.S. European Command personnel raised \$100,000, and the U.S. Africa Command contributed \$97,000. The remainder of the Stuttgart support came for other supported units in the area.

Distinctive to the CFC-O, 6 percent of campaign gross, from undesignated contributions, is returned to the overseas installations Family Support and Youth Programs which is then used to invest in better quality of life programs for service members, their families, and federal employees.

**NATIONAL GUARD ANNIVERSARY**

In honor of the 379th anniversary of the founding of the National Guard, the United States European Command Special Operations Command is hosting an event Jan. 20 at 4 p.m. at the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks to celebrate the past and future of the Guard. Join the cake cutting and become more familiar with the National Guard's contributions to the United States Army Garrison Stuttgart's major commands, United States European Command and United States Africa Command, and build camaraderie among the National Guard personnel assigned to the Stuttgart area along with those across Germany. Open to all ID Cardholders. No RSVP required. For information, contact DSN: 430-2759.

**REGISTER NOW FOR ABSENTEE VOTING**

Through the Federal Voting

Assistance Program, service members, their eligible family members and overseas citizens are able to vote from anywhere in the world. Stuttgart community members interested in voting in 2016 elections should submit their requests for absentee voting by Jan. 31. Absentee ballot registration is available for your respective state at: [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

New voters can also register at through FVAP to vote. All citizens over age 18 are eligible to vote. In 22 states, 17-year-olds can vote in the February primary elections, provided they will be 18 by Election Day, Nov. 8, 2016.

For more information on overseas voting or assistance with absentee ballots, contact the Installation Voting Assistance Officer Building 2913, Panzer Kaserne at DSN: 431-2865/civ. 07031-15-2865.

**JANUARY EXCHANGE VENDORS**

Upcoming vendors visiting the Panzer Mall are as follows: Jan. 18-24: Martin Wood Burner. Jan. 25-3: Fillmonia Cutlery, Oznur Turkish Delight Candy and Cloths, Giovanni Masks and Gift Items, Home Sweet Home Furniture.

**TRICARE COPAYS CHANGE FEB. 1**

Military pharmacies and TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery will remain the lowest cost pharmacy option for TRICARE beneficiaries when some TRICARE pharmacy copays change in 2016. On Feb 1, 2016, most copays for prescription drugs at Home Delivery and retail network pharmacies will increase slightly.

The 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) requires TRICARE to change its prescription copays. All drugs at military pharmacies, and generic drugs through Home Delivery, are still available at no cost to beneficiaries. Copays for brand name drugs through Home Delivery increase from \$16 to \$20, for up to a 90-day supply. At retail pharmacies, generic drug copays go from \$8 to \$10, and brand name drug copays go from \$20 to \$24 dollars, for up to a 30-day supply. Copays for

non-formulary drugs and for drugs at non-network pharmacies will also change.

Beneficiaries can save up to \$208 in 2016 for each brand name prescription drug they switch from retail pharmacy to Home Delivery. Home Delivery offers safe and convenient delivery of your prescription drugs right to your mailbox.

To see the new TRICARE pharmacy copays, learn more about the TRICARE Pharmacy benefit, or move your prescription to Home Delivery, visit [www.tricare.mil/pharmacy](http://www.tricare.mil/pharmacy).

**NEW OFF-POST HOUSING CONTRACTOR**

The U.S. Army Garrison Housing Services Office has a new contractor for off-post housing. Pervin Estates, LLC provides home finding and relocation service support in the Stuttgart area for eligible Department of Defense civilians and military personnel who have been issued a Certificate of Non-Availability (CNA) for on-base housing. Pervin Estates services are located in the Housing Office in Building 2913 on Panzer Kaserne. People can contact them at DSN: 431-2318/3782/3484/3485 or civ. 07031-15-2318 /3782 /3484 /3485. House hunters are highly encouraged to visit the office in-person for assistance.

**SIGNUP FOR ATHOC ALERTS ONLINE**

AtHOC has Self Service sign-up available with Common Access Cards (CAC) online. Service members may also enter a dependent (one additional account). AtHoc alerts users of emergency notifications multiple ways through computers pop-ups, voice calls to landline and mobile phones, emails and text messages. Contact the Emergency Management Protection Branch officer at DSN: 431-2031/civ. 0703-115-2031 with any questions, or contact your local commands Protection office. Follow the directions at [www.stuttgartcitizen.com](http://www.stuttgartcitizen.com), search AtHOC for the direct link and instructions to sign up online.

**IREPORT EUROPE**

• Report is a theater-wide reporting system that Soldiers, civilians, contractors and family members in Europe can use to report suspicious behavior to the appropriate authorities. iReport is available online and as a mobile app, visit [www.eur.army.mil/iReport](http://www.eur.army.mil/iReport).

• To report an imminent threat or crime in progress, immediately contact the military police or reach host-nation law enforcement by dialing commercial in Germany: 112.

**GOLF COURSE NO LONGER ACCEPTS EUROS**

As of Jan. 1, the Stuttgart Golf Course in Kornwestheim will no longer take Euros as a form of payment. Credit cards and U.S. dollars will be the only form of payment accepted. For more information, contact the Stuttgart Golf Course at 07141-879-151.

**VISION BOARD TRAINING**

An "EnVISION Success without the Stress" course will take place 1:30-3:30 p.m., Jan. 26 at the Religious Education Center on Patch Barracks, and 9-11 a.m., Jan. 27 at Fellowship Hall at Panzer Chapel. The course is open to community members including family members, active duty, civilian employees, and local nationals, to focus on training for Personal Goal Setting and Making the Most of Community Resources.

Topics of discussion include "stress-less" planning, the importance of proactivity, the law of attraction, and revealed secrets to guide appreciative leadership. All class participants will have the opportunity to create their very own vision board to illustrate their road map to success. Seating is limited and registration is required. Materials will be provided. Additional sessions are also scheduled for units and leadership that give two hours of face-to-face Army Substance Abuse Program training credit. For more information and to register, contact Army Substance Abuse Program coordinators at DSN: 431-2530/civ. 0703-115-2530.

## WINTER ADVISORY RESOURCES

• Facebook: By 5:30 a.m., and when conditions warrant a change, notifications are posted to the garrison Facebook page, at <https://www.facebook.com/USAGarrisonStuttgart>.

• AFN Radio: Announcements air on American Forces Network Stuttgart (102.3 FM). Or listen online using AFN 360: [http://afn360.afneurope.net/AudioPlayer.html#afne\\_stu](http://afn360.afneurope.net/AudioPlayer.html#afne_stu)

• Telephone Hotline: Call the Weather and Road Condition Hotline at 431-3744 or civ. 07031-15-3744.

The decision to cancel or close operations is made by the garrison commander after he has been informed of the current road conditions by the director of Emergency Services, based on Military Police patrols. Military Police patrols access only installation roads. Roads in the surrounding local communities outside of the installations, including bus routes, are not assessed or reported on by the MPs. Announcements regarding service member and employee work-reporting instructions during times of delayed or closed operations only apply to the garrison organizations and its workforce, the Logistics Readiness Center and Department of Defense Dependents Schools. For those who work for U.S. European Command, U.S. Africa Command, Special Operations Command Europe or other organizations, work delays and early releases are only authorized by their leadership. Individual drivers should access the safety of their travel routes and should contact their chain of command if they feel travel would be unsafe. Use Facebook, AFN, or the weather hotline as the first source for road condition information, instead of calling the MP desk to keep emergency lines open.

## 24/7 SHARP HOTLINE EUROPE

Now, those in Europe can access the U.S. toll free 24 hour hotline using a local German telephone number. The Army Sexual Harassment / Assault Response & Prevention hotline is accessible via DSN, landline, and mobile, 24 hours a day

at: 537-SAFE (7233) or civ. 0611-143-537-SAFE (7233). The Safe Helpline, <https://safehelpline.org> is a resource offered in the United States for victims of sexual assault to have access 24/7 to the following: Crisis intervention, Emotional support, Referrals to both military and civilian resources in the victim's area, Information on military reporting options (restricted vs. unrestricted), Information for family and friends of victims, Long and short-term safety concerns.

## FMWR HIRING

Interested in a career with Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) to serve and make a positive difference in the life of our Military members their families and civilians in the Stuttgart community? The Nonappropriated Fund Human Resources office is currently recruiting for a Bowling Equipment Worker at the Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center. The applicant must have work experience or training in the use of electrical test equipment and wiring diagrams. Nonappropriated Fund (NAF) positions are open to all qualified candidates eligible for appointment under U.S. employment conditions. Applicants may apply using the USA Jobs link at [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov).

## EMPLOYMENT READINESS LUNCHTIME SERIES

Jan. 19: Interviewing Strategies/Dress for Success — Take the Interviewing Strategies and Dress for Success class and walk into your interview with confidence. Classes held at Army Community Service, Building 2915 Panzer Kaserne, 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m., contact DSN: 431-3362/civ.07031-15-3362.

## FINANCIAL READINESS CLASSES

For Department of Defense personnel, financial readiness is the ability to manage finances and plan for unexpected changes, like a moves or deployments. The Stuttgart Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program helps people prepare by offering

training on how to save and invest money, establish savings goals, debt elimination strategies, and saving for emergencies. All classes take place from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne. To pre-register or for more information, call DSN: 431-3362/civ. 07031-15-3362. Upcoming classes are:

- Jan. 20 – Saving and Investing
- Feb. 3 – Principles of Personal Finance: Budgeting
- Feb. 10 – PCS Finances for Junior Enlisted Families

## TINY TOTS LUNCH AND PLAY

Jan. 19, come visit the lunchtime playgroup 10:30 a.m. to noon at Army Community Service, Building 2915 Panzer Kaserne, designed specifically for toddlers and young children ages 1-4. We will discuss toddler related topics along with opportunity for your child to learn through play! Lunch is not provided but feel free to bring your own. Registration is not required. Open to all DoD Civilian ID cardholders. Contact DSN 431-3518/civ. 07031-15-3518.

## EFMP INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Jan. 20 at 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Gain an understanding of the principals of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Individual Education Program (IEP) through the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP). Participants will be provided with resources and information on the program at Army Community Service, Building 2915 Panzer Kaserne. For information, contact DSN 431-3053/civ. 07031-15-3053.

## EMERGENCY PLACEMENT CARE OPEN HOUSE

Jan. 25 at Army Community Service Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne from noon — 1 p.m. Are you the one family, the one Soldier, the one civilian willing to open your heart and home to children in need? If you are, the Emergency Placement Care Program needs you. Emergency Placement Care (EPC) is a program that temporarily places children in a safe and secure

home. Placements normally span a few days. The professional staff from Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program will be there every step of the way to assist and support you while you care for our littlest soldiers! Help a child in need. Be the ONE. Be Army Strong! Join us for an open house and learn more about this important program and what you can do to give back to your community. Open to all DoD Civilian ID cardholders. Contact DSN: 431-3518/civ. 07031-15-3518.

## INFANT MASSAGE

Jan. 25 at Army Community Service Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Bonding isn't necessarily an instantaneous reaction to having given birth; it is an ongoing process. Infant massage encourages a good relationship by supporting verbal and non-verbal communication and prolonged eye contact. It gives parent and child time... just to be together. Registration is not required. Open to all DoD Civilian ID cardholders. DSN: 431-3518/civ. 07031-15-3518.

## COMFORT MEASURES

Jan. 27 at Patch Fitness Center, 1:15 – 4 p.m. This class teaches and practices techniques with a birthing coach in order to help you stay as comfortable as possible during the birthing process. Couples should bring a pillow, water bottle, and wear comfortable clothes. Class will take place in the Patch Fitness Center aerobics room. Register with Army Community Service Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne, contact DSN: 431-3518/civ.07031-15-3518.

## SCSC SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications for Stuttgart Community Spouses Club Scholarships for the 2015-2016 academic year are open for eligible applicants including all high school graduating seniors, continuing education students (not older than age 23), and spouses. SCSC Scholarships are merit based awards. The selection process is based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities, community leadership, community service, work experience and a personal essay.

Applicants must be ID card holders sponsored by an active duty member, government civilian, or contractor within the Stuttgart military community. See application for complete eligibility requirements on the SCSC website, [www.stuttgartspousesclub.org](http://www.stuttgartspousesclub.org).

Applications may also be picked up at the Stuttgart High School counselor's office, Army Community Services, Patch Thrift store, Education Center and on-post library. Submission deadline: March 4, 2016. For more information email: [scsc.scholarship@gmail.com](mailto:scsc.scholarship@gmail.com).

## SCSC WELFARE GRANTS

The Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club is accepting applications for Welfare grants from any organization that would like to apply for project funding. Applications are available through April and must be received by the 15th of each month for consideration. Applications and submission instructions, can be found at [www.stuttgartspousesclub.org](http://www.stuttgartspousesclub.org) under the Welfare tab or by emailing [scsc.welfare@gmail.com](mailto:scsc.welfare@gmail.com).

## DECA SCHOLARSHIPS

The Commissary's Scholarships for Military Children Program is now accepting applications from eligible students (Opened, Dec. 15). A total of 700 scholarship grants, each worth \$2,000, will be awarded for the 2016-17 school year. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location where qualified applications are received. Additional recipients will be selected based on a prorated basis, so more scholarships will be awarded at those commissaries with larger numbers of applicants. To qualify for consideration, applicants must be a dependent, unmarried child, younger than 21 — or 23, if enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university — of a service member on active duty, a Reserve or Guard member, retiree or survivor of a military member who died while on active duty, or survivor of a retiree. Application deadline: Feb. 12.

For more information, students or sponsors can visit [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org).

# Dunford Meets with AFRICOM and EUCOM Commanders



U.S. Marine Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, meets with U.S. Army Gen. David M. Rodriguez, commander, U.S. Africa Command, at AFRICOM headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany Jan. 4, 2016. — *Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Dominique A. Pineiro*

By Jim Garamone  
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff arrived here yesterday for meetings with U.S. commanders.

Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr. has scheduled meetings today with Army Gen. David M. Rodriguez, the commander of U.S. Africa Command, and Air Force Gen. Philip M. Breedlove, the commander of U.S. European Command. Both commands are headquartered here.

Russia and the threat from terrorism dominate the security situation in Europe, defense officials said on background. U.S. forces are working to reassure allies — especially those that share a border with Russia — of U.S. commitment to the region, they said.

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant is also a concern to European leaders, officials said. Waves of refugees escaping Syria and the fighting there are seeking refuge in Europe.

Africa has its own terror problems with Boko Haram, which is centered in Nigeria, and the al-Shabaab terror group is a danger in Somalia and neighboring countries, officials traveling with the chairman said.

U.S. Africa Command, according to its website, works in concert with interagency and international partners to build defense capabilities, respond to crisis, and deter and defeat transnational threats in order to advance U.S. national interests and promote regional security, stability, and prosperity. The command is headquartered at Kelley Barracks in Stuttgart-Moehringen, Germany.

## Commander: Russia's actions require new approach in Europe

By Jim Garamone  
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

For two decades, the United States “hugged the bear” in Europe, but that has to change, the commander of U.S. European Command, or EUCOM, said.

Air Force Gen. Philip M. Breedlove, who also serves as NATO's supreme allied commander for Europe, has advocated for more U.S. forces in Europe to counter growing Russian capabilities and capacity. He spoke to reporters traveling with Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

With the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, the United States and its allies saw an opportunity to try to make Russia a partner. But a strategy document signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin last week names the United States and the expansion of the NATO alliance as threats to his country. Breedlove said the policy document merely codified Russian actions for several years.

### A 'REVANCHIST RUSSIA'

“What I would offer is that if you look at Russia's actions all the way back to '08 — in Georgia, in Nagorno-Karabakh, in Crimea, in the Donbass, and now down in Syria — we see what most call a revanchist Russia that has put force back on the table as an instrument of national power to meet their objectives,” the general said.

This means there has to be changes in the way U.S. military forces operate in Europe, he added, noting that for 20 years, U.S. military decisions were guided by the effort to make Russia a partner.

“Across that time ... we have changed our force structure, we have changed our

[intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance] allocations, we've changed our analytical allocations, [and] we've downsized the forces in all the media here in Europe,” he said.

Now, Breedlove said, U.S. military officials look at Russian capabilities and capacity and have to adjust.

### MORE U.S. CAPABILITY IN EUROPE

Breedlove has advocated for more U.S. service members and more capabilities in Europe, and that is beginning to happen. A fourth destroyer has arrived in Spain, for example, and the Army is rotating a brigade-sized unit to Europe, he said.

But it is more than simply building up numbers, he added. For 13 years, he said, EUCOM was focused on training other nations to join the counterinsurgency fight in Afghanistan.

“We are really good at counterinsurgency targeting,” Breedlove said. “It's been a long time since we've done an air campaign the size of Iraq 1 or Iraq 2, or even in the opening days of Afghanistan. We need to get back to those high-end skills to ensure we have the depth of bench for that fight.”

“As Afghanistan drew down, we were prescient,” he continued. “We decided ... that we needed to train to high-end Article 5 capabilities. That was our plan, even before Crimea.” Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty states that an attack on one NATO ally will be considered an attack on all allies.

### REDEVELOPING HIGH-END CAPABILITY

Russia's actions validate the decision,



U.S. Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., left, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, speaks with U.S. Air Force Gen. Philip M. Breedlove, commander of U.S. European Command, or EUCOM, and supreme allied commander of Europe, at EUCOM's headquarters in Stuttgart. — *Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Dominique A. Pineiro*

the general said. “Now every Soldier, sailor, airman or Marine that comes to European Command will be focused on redeveloping that high-end kinetic fighting capability,” he added.

All exercises and training will stress these capabilities, the general said, and EUCOM also will exercise at division and corps level in the future.

Breedlove said he cannot tell what Putin intends to do with the military he has re-equipped and retrained.

“Many people ask me, ‘What is Putin thinking?’ or ‘What do you think he's thinking?’” he said. “I'm not sure what he's thinking, but I can look at what he's doing and derive from that what we should be thinking about on our side.”

# Housing addresses appliances shortages, in-home maintenance

By Robyn Mack

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The free use of European specification dishwashers, refrigerators, and washing machines is a benefit afforded to Department of Defense civilians and military personnel stationed at Army installations across Germany.

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Housing Office is responsible for maintaining and distributing the appliances to new community members. Recently, however, the process has slowed, leaving some without the in-home convenience.

According to Franz Bergmeier, USAG Stuttgart's deputy housing director, the slowdown is due to poor in-home maintenance and a procurement process that can't keep up with the rate at which the machines need to come out of service due to wear or age.

"Appliances that are issued to personnel in Germany are centrally distributed from the U.S. Army Installation Management Command Europe in Sembach, Germany," the housing deputy director said. "They make bulk orders of new appliances as well as deliver the needed appliances to bases across Germany as we request them."

Due to recent budget restraints, replacing worn and aged equipment has stopped, according to the veteran housing professional, leaving the supply depleted or non-existent.

"There is currently a waiting list for some appliances for Stuttgart community members," Bergmeier said. "We have our



People assigned to U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart are authorized the free use of some European specification appliances. Proper use and maintenance keep them available for use for incoming personnel. — Photo by USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

order in and are doing our best to keep our current inventory serviceable. But, our customers play a vital role in helping us maintain the resources we do have."

"Perhaps the most important thing you can do is treat your appliance with proper care and keep it clean," said Robert Bradley, USAG Stuttgart household appliance coordinator. "Become familiar with how to clean and use the appliance — and if you don't know, ask"

*To make a maintenance request contact the Service Order Help Desk at DSN: 421-6200/civ. 0711-729-6200. Personnel should be home for the appointment. For questions on appliance use and care go to <http://www.manualslib.com/> and download a manual for your appliance.*

## Did you know?

- European dishwashers require salt.
- High efficiency (he) or German laundry detergent is best for European clothes washers.
- Germany has hard water that

can leave residue.

- All items issued with appliances should also be returned with the appliance to the warehouse.
- Users are monetarily liable for all damages to appliances in excess of fair wear and tear.

## Tips for European appliance maintenance and use

### General

- Do not use sharp objects, like kitchen knives, to clean an appliance, or chip frost from a refrigerator.
- Use only German or American high efficiency detergents to prevent excessive suds which can overflow and damage electronic panels.
- Visit <http://www.manualslib.com/> to find the manual for your appliance, if a specific model manufacturer's manual is not available, look for a comparable piece of equipment to serve as a guide.

### Washer

- Use only appropriate detergents.
- Keep the washer door open after use. This will keep the machine from developing a sewage smell.
- Clean soap tray, door seal and drain filter frequently.

### Dryer

- On-post residents have U.S. dryers, off-post residents are issued German condense dryers.
- Clean U.S. and German dryer lint filter after each use to prevent fires. On German condense dryers the lint filters are inside the door and on the bottom of the dryer opening.
- Do not dry rubber or plastic materials, or items containing these materials, like bathmats, bibs, or blackout lined curtains.
- In German condense dryers clean the condenser located behind the small door on the front of the dryer every 2 to 3 months.
- Empty German condense dryer water drawer after each use.

- Failure to clean dryers can lead to moisture buildup which can cause damage to electric panels.

### Dishwashers

- In addition to detergent and rinsing agent, dishwashers require salt to soften the water. The dishwasher salt is available at the commissary or on the economy. If you don't use the salt, lime will build up in the dishwasher, pipes and nozzles, and cause dishes and glasses to turn grey. The salt compartment is in the base of the dishwasher, soap inserted here can damage the dishwasher and the member can be held liable.

### Ovens

- Do not place heavy loads on oven doors. Tipping the range can cause injuries, especially if pots or pans filled with hot food slide off the range. Children sitting or standing on the door may break the door or cause the range to tip.
- Ensure the range exhaust hood filter is cleaned or replaced often. This will keep the grease from building up and catching fire. You can clean metal filters in the dishwasher.
- Do not place cold cook pots on hot ceramic surface. The temperature difference will cause the ceramic top to crack.
- Remove boiled over food residue immediately. Failure to clean will cause permanent burn stains around the burners.
- Clean ceramic stove top regularly with appropriate cleaner to maintain a clean and functional surface.

# DoD Releases 2016 Basic Allowance for Housing Rates

By Department of Defense

The Department of Defense has released the 2016 Basic Allowance for Housing rates. Basic Allowance for Housing rates will increase an average of 3.4 percent when the new rates take effect on January 1, 2016. An estimated \$21 billion will be paid to approximately one million Service members. On average, Basic Allowance for Housing rates will increase approximately \$54 per month.

Continuing to slow the growth in compensation costs, the 2016 Basic Allowance for Housing Program expands the member cost-sharing

element (out-of-pocket expense). Based on the authority provided in the FY 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, the cost-sharing element was increased to two percent. The cost-sharing amounts incorporated in the 2016 Basic Allowance for Housing rates vary by grade and dependency status and range from \$24 to \$57 monthly. This means for 2016, a typical member will need to absorb two percent of the national average housing cost by pay grade. This rate computation change slows the growth of certain military pay and benefits in a fair, responsible, and sustainable way. Even with these nominal changes, the overall military pay and benefits

package remains robust and healthy.

An integral part of the Basic Allowance for Housing program is the provision of individual rate protection to all members. No matter what happens to measured housing costs — including the out-of-pocket cost sharing adjustment noted above, an individual member who maintains uninterrupted Basic Allowance for Housing eligibility in a given location will not see his/her Basic Allowance for Housing rate decrease. This ensures that members who have made long-term commitments in the form of a lease or contract are not penalized if the area's housing costs decrease.

The Department is committed to the preservation of a compensation and benefit structure that provides members with a suitable and secure standard of living to sustain a trained, experienced, and ready force now and in the future.

For more information on Basic Allowance for Housing, including the 2016 Basic Allowance for Housing rates and 2016 Basic Allowance for Housing rate component breakdown, visit <https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bah.cfm>. Service members can calculate their BAH payment by using the Basic Allowance for Housing calculator at: <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bahCalc.cfm>.

## Face Time: ONR-Sponsored Tech Reads Facial Expressions for Autism Symptoms

By Warren Duffie  
Office of Naval Research

There's an app for everything these days — from weight loss to working out. Now, thanks in part to support from the Office of Naval Research (ONR), there's an app that may screen for autism by reading kids' facial expressions for emotional cues.

"The long-term implications of this research are huge," said Dr. Predrag Neskovic, a program officer in ONR's Mathematical Data Science program. "Not only could the app be used to learn more about childhood autism, it could possibly reveal signs of post-traumatic stress disorder [PTSD] and mild traumatic brain injury [TBI] in warfighters — conditions that often have subtle symptoms and are difficult to diagnose."

The app, called "Autism & Beyond," was developed by researchers and software developers at Duke University and the Duke Medical Center. It currently is available for free download from the Apple App Store to families wishing to participate in a six-month medical research study by Duke University.

"Autism & Beyond" has children complete a series of questionnaires and watch short videos designed to make them

smile, laugh and be surprised. Parents or caregivers use an iPhone's user-facing "selfie" camera to record children's facial movements for evaluation by doctors, researchers and software.

The app's core technical component — the ONR-sponsored technology — is a complex mathematical algorithm that automatically maps key landmarks on children's faces and assesses emotional responses based on movements of facial muscles.

"We analyze the video to track position and movement of the head and face, including the lips, eyes and nose — all of which indicate emotions," said Dr. Guillermo Sapiro, a professor at Duke University, who developed the algorithm. "For example, while watching stimuli like a funny video, does the child smile, look toward the caregiver or ask the caregiver to view the video as well? We study all of that. Lack of emotion and social sharing are possible characteristics of childhood autism."

Sapiro stresses the app isn't a self-diagnosis resource, but is intended to serve as a potential screening tool for autism and other developmental challenges, and encourage users to contact a physician for specialized testing.

Once the autism studies are com-



Photo by Office of Naval Research

plete, Sapiro hopes to eventually expand and tailor the app to conditions suffered by warfighters, including PTSD, TBI and depression. As with autism, facial expressions can indicate the presence of such disorders. For example, many individuals suffering from PTSD or depression smile often, but their grins tend to be forced and short. Improved analysis of such facial expressions could lead to more accurate diagnoses by doctors and, consequently, enhanced treatment options for military personnel and veterans.

"The great thing about the algorithm and video analysis tool is they can be universally applied to various research apps and studies," said Sapiro.

"Today it's autism, in the future it could be PTSD. How can we take 'Autism & Beyond' beyond its current state and to the next level? Autism is just the start.

"We hope to find the right partner and develop a research app studying PTSD," he continued. "We've already received interest from a nearby Veterans Affairs center about using this technology in veterans' homes to monitor behavior for signs of depression."

*For more about the "Autism & Beyond" study, click here. Sapiro's research aligns with the Naval S&T Strategy, which emphasizes health and resilience as key components of warfighter performance.*

## Health Beat: Dietary expert: Be careful of 'quick fix' supplements and diets

By Military Health System Communications Office

A few years ago, Army Capt. Stephen Krauss faced a dieting dilemma. The stress of finishing up his Ph.D., along with the inactivity brought on by school work, led him to become overweight, by 70 pounds, in fact. And he wanted to join the military.

"I was fat," said the now-assistant professor in the Department of Military and Emergency Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU). "The recruiter told me, very justifiably, that I was wasting his time."

Krauss knew he had to take off the weight quickly to make the cutoff date as a candidate for his specialty — research psychology. And then the recruiter surprised him again: instead of the six months he thought he would have to make the cutoff, he had only six weeks to take off the weight. While they were tempting, dietary supplements weren't an option. "I did not want to do anything that would jeopardize my recruitment."

Instead, Krauss found a diet that allowed him to eat many of the things he liked, but just in smaller portions, and eating lots of fruits and vegetables helped him feel filled up. While it was hard, he did make the weight just four days before the deadline, which en-

abled him to join the Army.

His dilemma isn't uncommon for military members, retirees and their families. Dr. Patricia Deuster, a professor in the Department of Military and Emergency Medicine and director of USU's Consortium for Health and Military Performance, a Defense Center of Excellence, said 50 to 60 percent of military personnel are overweight, and more than 10 percent turn to supplements to shed the pounds.

"I'm very concerned about [the use of these supplements]," said Deuster. "A number of weight loss supplements contain prescription drugs and other combinations of ingredients that are potentially harmful. The consumer cannot tell which ones are harmful."

In fact, Deuster said the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has been targeting weight loss supplements for closer scrutiny. Such products should be checked carefully for ingredients including stimulants, such as caffeine, bitter orange and yohimbe. "If the dietary supplement has three or four stimulants, we have no idea how they interact. Certain combinations can be toxic to the heart, so there's a lot of concern about this."

Deuster said it's tough for the average consumer to look at a label and truly understand how certain combinations of ingredi-

ents could be harmful. She recommends visiting the USU Human Performance Resource Center's Operation Supplement Safety website and the National Institutes of Health's Office of Dietary Supplements website to learn more about potentially harmful ingredients in these products. Deuster supports Krauss' method of watching what you eat and getting more exercise when it comes to weight loss.

"There's no quick fix," said Deuster. "It really comes down to consuming less and moving more. Have a conversation instead of eating. It's hard to talk when you're eating."

For Krauss, eating right and exercising more also helped his self-confidence, incredibly important for someone in the military, and ensured he would be a fit example of a service member.

"When I go into meetings, already being one of the lowest-ranking officers in the room, I can't be borderline on weight standards," said Krauss. "I have to look professional. Without a doubt, I now look like a soldier."

Krauss added people need to look at weight loss as a change in lifestyle, something they have to continue long after any unwanted pounds are shed. He said you can still treat yourself to calorie luxuries every once in a while. But supplements shouldn't be part of that long-term plan.

"Supplements can have dangerous side effects," said Krauss. "You can't just take a miracle drug and lose 20 pounds. You have to change your lifestyle, or eventually you'll be right back where you started."

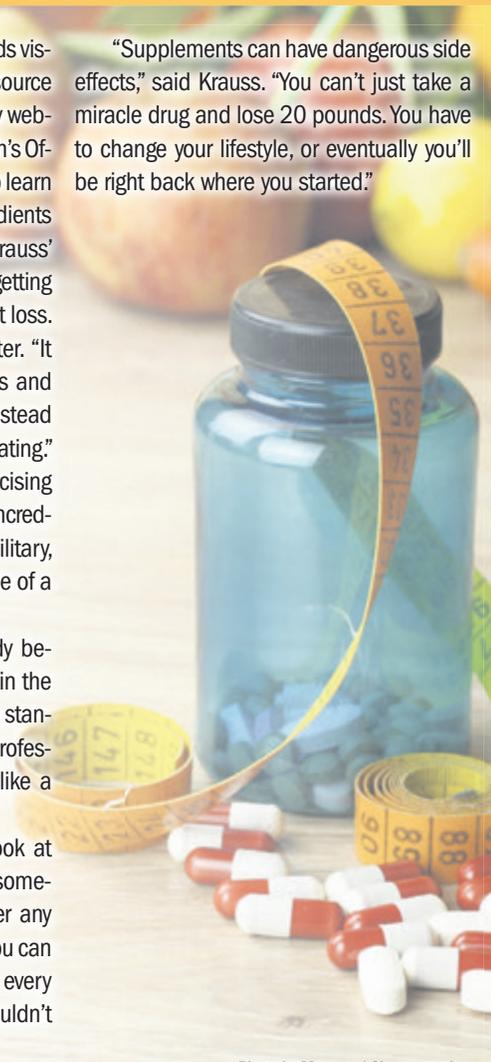


Photo by Marsan / Shutterstock.com

# What's happening in FMWR

## “RISK” TOURNAMENT GLOBAL DOMINATION

Jan. 23: Better Opportunities for Single Servicemembers (BOSS), Warrior Zone at 2 p.m. conquer the world by earning the most territories in the board game “RISK.” Use your best strategies to take the top stop. The winner will receive a free entrance to one of our future cooking classes. Register by January 21. Contact DSN: 430-7135/civ. 0711-680-7135.

## VALENTINE'S DAY SALE

Jan. 24 – Feb. 13: This Valentine's Day make it one to remember. Place your pre-order for roses, balloon bouquet or Valentine's Day basket at the Patch Arts and Crafts Center and pick it up. Pickups are also available on Valentine's Day Sun. Feb. 14. Spend \$25 and you can enter the drawing held Feb. 12. Five winners receive Valentine's Day themed jumbo basket. You do not need to be present to win. Contact DSN: 430-5270/civ. 0711-680-5270.

## SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATION

Jan. 25 – Feb. 26: Child & Youth Services (CYS) Sports, Patch Barracks.

Keep your child (ages 3 – 15) active, sign them up for spring sports. Choose between baseball, softball, track, soccer or tennis. Prices vary for sports and age. For more information visit Parent Central Services. Register at Parent Central Services or via webtrac. Season runs from April 15 – May 31. Physical must be valid until May 31. Contact DSN: 430-7480/civ. 0711-680-7480.

## ODR SNOW DAY TRIPS EXPRESS TRIPS

- Jan. 24: Fellhorn, Germany
- Jan. 30: Montafon, Austria

Join a Snow Day Trip Express with Outdoor Recreation, Panzer Kaserne. You don't need a lot of time for a whole lot of adventure. Travel with ODR on an express trip. Price only includes transportation. Lift ticket, meals and other recreational expenses are the responsibility of the patron. ODR Equipment rental: \$20 per adult and \$15 per youth. Get fitted for your gear a week prior to trip. For more information, cost and trip departure schedules, contact DSN: 431-2774/civ. 07031-15-2774.

For more Family and MWR events, visit [www.stuttgart.armymwr.com](http://www.stuttgart.armymwr.com).

## COMING TO PATCH THEATER

### Thursday January 14

The Revenant (R) 1900

### Friday January 15

Star Wars: The Force Awakens in 3D (PG-13) 1800

13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi (R) 2100

### Saturday January 16

Alvin & The Chipmunks (PG) 1500

13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi (R) 1800

Ride Along 2 (PG-13) 2100

### Sunday January 17

Star Wars: The Force Awakens (PG-13) 1600

Ride Along 2 (PG-13) 1900

### Thursday January 21

13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi (R) 1900

### Friday January 22

Daddy's Home (PG-13) 1800

The 5th Wave (PG-13) 2100

### Saturday January 23

Concussion (PG-13) 1500

The 5th Wave (PG-13) 1800

Brooklyn (PG-13) 2100

### Sunday January 24

Star Wars: The Force Awakens (PG-13) 1600

Brooklyn (PG-13) 1900

**Editor's note: The movies listing was the most current at the time of publication. Dates are subject to change. Please check with your local theater online for the most up-to-date schedule:**

**[https://www.shopmyexchange.com/reel-time-theatres/Patch-Barracks-\(Stuttgart\)-1371010](https://www.shopmyexchange.com/reel-time-theatres/Patch-Barracks-(Stuttgart)-1371010)**



© 2015 - Fox Searchlight /

Photo courtesy of FoxSearchlight.com

**Brooklyn** tells the profoundly moving story of Ellis Lacey (Saoirse Ronan), a young Irish immigrant navigating her way through 1950s Brooklyn. Lured by the promise of America, Ellis departs Ireland and the comfort of her mother's home for the shores of New York City. The initial shackles of homesickness quickly diminish as a fresh romance sweeps Ellis into the intoxicating charm of love. But soon, her new vivacity is disrupted by her past, and Ellis must choose between two countries and the lives that exist within.

## Family and MWR Advertisement

[stuttgart.armymwr.com](http://stuttgart.armymwr.com)



### SALE

#### VALENTINE'S DAY SALE

Jan. 24 - Feb. 13

Patch Arts & Crafts Center, Patch Barracks

This Valentine's Day make it one to remember. Place your pre-order for roses, balloon bouquets or Valentine's Day baskets. Spend \$25 and you can enter the drawing held Feb. 12. There will be five winners that will receive Valentine's Day themed jumbo baskets. You do not need to be present to win.

DSN 430-5270/CIV 0711-680-5270



### SPORTS

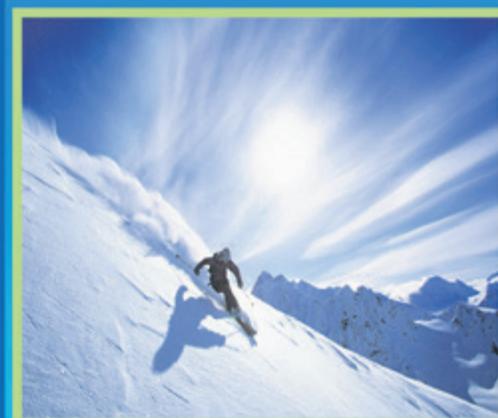
#### SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATION

Jan. 25 - Feb. 26

Parent Central Services, Patch Barracks

Keep your child active, sign them up for spring sports. They can choose between baseball, softball, track, soccer or tennis. Prices vary by sports and age. Register at Parent Central Services or via webtrac. Season runs from April 15 - May 31. Physical must be valid until May 31.

DSN 430-7480/CIV 0711-680-7480



### SKIING

#### SNOW DAY TRIP EXPRESS

Jan. 30, departs 5 a.m.

Outdoor Recreation, Panzer Kaserne

Travel with ODR on an express trip to Montafon, Austria. \$89 per adult, \$79 per youth (17 and younger) \$45 for SWPC. Price includes transportation only. Lift ticket, meals and other recreational expenses are the responsibility of the patron. Register by Jan. 22.

DSN 431-2774/CIV 07031-15-2774



# 2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

## Monthly recap of USAG Stuttgart's most read articles

By USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Your clicks counted! Here's the most viewed stories by Stuttgart community members in 2015. The results are based on the number of times news and cultural information was accessed via the on-line version of the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart newspaper, "The Citizen," at [www.stuttgartcitizen.com](http://www.stuttgartcitizen.com).

### JANUARY



#### “Traveling to Europe is about to get a whole lot cheaper”

Facebook Likes: Over 1,500

### FEBRUARY



#### “Traveling Europe on the cheap”

Views: Over 1,200

“A good place to start your research is Price of Travel, an online database of travel costs for 110 cities worldwide, 56 of them in Europe. The site's Europe Backpacker index for 2015 ranks cities from cheapest to most expensive based on the price of a hostel bed, two public transportation rides, the cost of one cultural attraction and other incidentals for each day in that city.”

### MARCH



#### “PCS Out Special: shipping alcohol”

Views: Over 1,400

“Whether you are shipping a wine collection or lugging a crate of German beer onto the plane home, state laws vary so much that you need to know exactly what restrictions apply in the state you arrive in and at your final destination.” — Beverly Sowell, the Installation Transportation Officer with the Stuttgart Logistics Readiness Center

### JULY



#### “Summer fun in Stuttgart”

Views: Over 700

### AUGUST

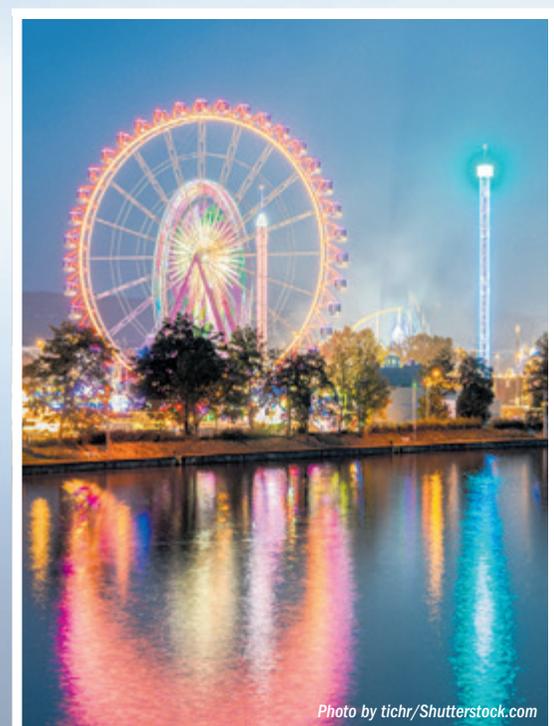


#### “Road construction affecting military installations”

Views: Over 5,800

The Panzer Kaserne road construction correcting the cobblestones on Haarde Strasse was completed in December.

### SEPTEMBER



#### “Fall fests to look forward to”

Views: Over 1,100

APRIL



Photo by Adam Sanders

“SOCEUR pays tribute to brother-in-arms”

Views: Over 7,500

“Sgt. 1st Class James Ginas was an ideal friend, a trusting brother, a loving son, a devoted father and a consummate warrior. His character was inspiring and his personality was magnetic,” said U.S. Air Force Col. Jeremiah S. Boenisch, SOCEUR director of communications.

MAY



Photo by ilolab/Shutterstock.com

“Introduction to the Stuttgart Area”

Views: Over 2000

The Stuttgart military community is composed of five installations throughout the greater Stuttgart metropolitan area and comprises a US population of about 22,000 service members civilians and families representing all four military services and other federal agencies. The Stuttgart metropolitan area, with a population of about 5 million people, is a thriving major German population center with a wide variety of industry and tourism.

JUNE



“PHS celebrates last graduating class”

Views: Over 6,500

OCTOBER



Photo courtesy of Neckar Magazin

‘Besenwirtschaften’ or broomstick inns of greater Stuttgart

Over 1,700

NOVEMBER



Photo by Sea Wave /Shutterstock.com

“German Recipe: Glühwein or spiced wine”

Over 3,500

DECEMBER



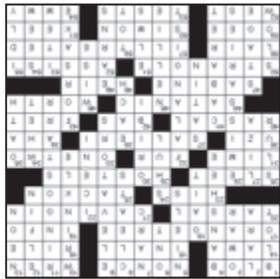
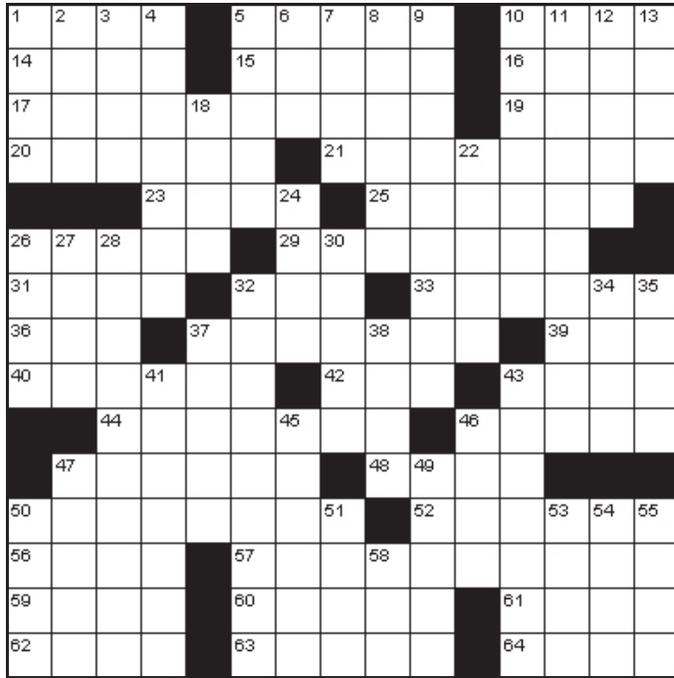
Photo by Thomas Ramsauer /Shutterstock.com

“Celebrating Christmas in Germany”

Views: Over 1,000

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.

# Crossword Puzzle



This week's solution!  
Courtesy of thinks.com

**ACROSS**

- 1 Shapeless mass
- 5 Present occasion
- 10 Small bird
- 14 Himalayan holy man
- 15 Counting everything
- 16 Exasperate
- 17 Grove growth
- 19 Facts, briefly
- 20 Kind of bone
- 21 Collapsing
- 23 Sibilant sound
- 25 Add
- 26 Winter forecast
- 29 Inexpensive lodgings
- 31 Vitamin C source
- 32 Silver fox, e.g.
- 33 Ring combination
- 36 Israeli gun
- 37 "Amadeus" antagonist
- 39 "Yes, I see!"
- 40 Rogue
- 42 Many college grads
- 43 Worry
- 44 Devilish
- 46 Value
- 47 Texas-Louisiana border river

48 One who succeeds

- 50 Throttle
- 52 Home of St Francis
- 56 Place to hole up
- 57 Abused
- 59 Kind of arch
- 60 Paul or Carly
- 61 Ship's spine
- 62 Pioneer's heading
- 63 Dry runs
- 64 TV award

**DOWN**

- 1 Ink stain
- 2 "Doctor Zhivago" heroine
- 3 Gen. Bradley
- 4 Wailing spirit
- 5 Nobelist Bohr
- 6 Where Ottawa is: Abbr.
- 7 Pusher's pursuer
- 8 Golf shoe features
- 9 They have their ups and downs
- 10 Crease
- 11 Beatle with the beat
- 12 Puckish
- 13 Inert gas

- 18 Amble or shamble
- 22 Boadicea's people
- 24 Rebbe's locale
- 26 Disparaging remark
- 27 Minnelli of stage and screen
- 28 Envoys
- 30 Pygmy antelope
- 32 Franco follower
- 34 Put an edge on
- 35 Solemn vow
- 37 Lustrous fabric
- 38 Apiece
- 41 Nightspot entertainment
- 43 Abandon
- 45 Melodic Melba
- 46 Sage
- 47 Wild West transport
- 49 Brings in
- 50 Unhurried
- 51 "Desire Under the \_\_\_"
- 53 Bit of news
- 54 Appear
- 55 Without purpose
- 58 Moppet

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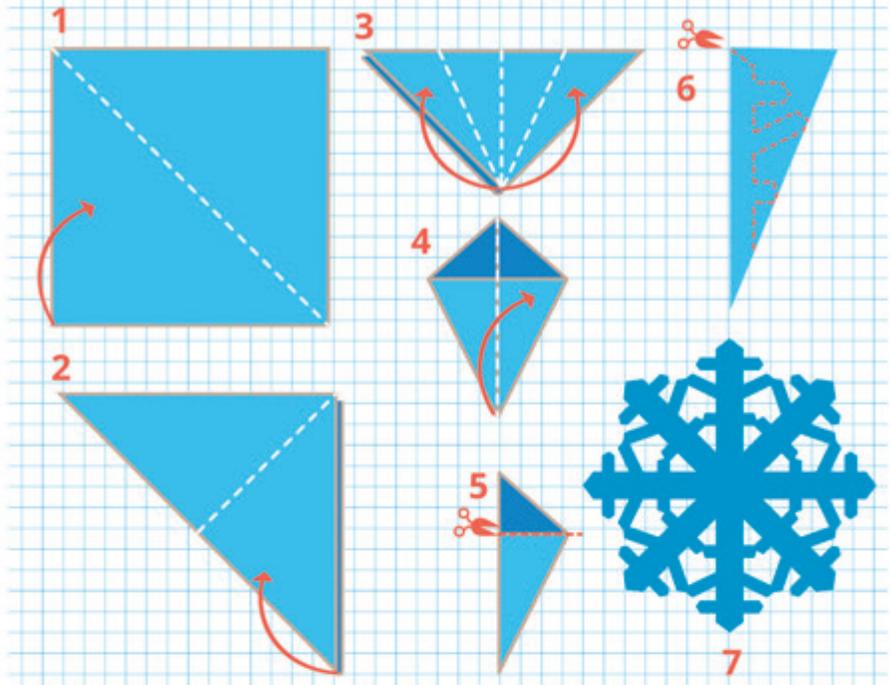
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## Instructions. How to make a paper snowflake



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**Large Modern Penthouse Apartment**, €2,600, sherrystjohn82@yahoo.com, 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, all utilities plus storage and garage parking included, fireplace, kitchen, balcony access from all rooms, AFN available, German cable, (Satellite, transformers, fans, portable air condition for \$300)



**Caution: Some Classified ads have become a target for scams. Please be cautious if potential buyers offer you payment methods other than cash.**

**1 PT Cruiser**, 2.2 Diesel, 2003, Green, Plates, 5-speed, 4-door, new TÜV, Air Cond, 2 Sets of Tires, Summer/Winter, ABS, Power Steering, Elec Windows and Locks, Keyless Entry, €2100, ddundkk@hotmail.de

**1995 BMW 520i**, \$3000 OBO, Comes with extra set of winter & summer tires. Battery, front shocks, rotors/pads, thermostat, water pump, & belts replaced w/in last year. Just passed inspection. Used as daily driver to/from work. 0171-680-4390

**2003 Volkswagen Golf** for sale \$3,500, marcus.j.garrison@gmail.com

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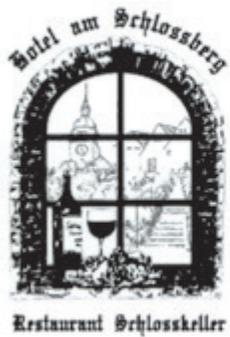
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**2000 VW Golf 5-Speed**, 75PS, 168000KM. ESP, ABS, Radio. Brakes front New, Oil change New. Batterie 1 year old. Good Condition Car. Nice Shape. Passed Inspection. 1999\$. Phone: 0170-1910484 Harry.

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# Have fun with the locals



## Carnival parade

Sun, Jan 24

Tübingen, city center

Tübingen's famous carnival parade will take place on January 24; it goes all the way through the old city center and guarantees fun for your whole family. Colorful and creative costumes, confetti and all the candy you can eat await, so visit [www.tuebingen.de](http://www.tuebingen.de) for more information and throw on a fancy costume yourself as you enjoy true German carnival - for free.

### EVENTS

#### Art exhibition

Thu, Jan 14 – Sun, Jan 17

**Sindelfingen, Messe Sindelfingen**

Sindelfingen's Messe invites you to their annual ARTe exhibition full of color and inspiring artwork. Stop by between January 14 and 17 and enjoy more than 3000 sqm of modern art; sculptures, paintings and drawings. The museum is open from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. and is happy to receive donations for children with special needs that receive art therapy and creative treatment with your help. For more information and to get a preview of the exhibition's masterpieces go to [www.messe-sindelfingen.de](http://www.messe-sindelfingen.de)

#### Storytime at the library

Thu, Jan 21

**Ludwigsburg, Stadtbibliothek im Kulturzentrum**

Monika Vogt is reading from simple English storybooks for children between 4 and 7 at the Stadtbibliothek (library) im Kulturzentrum in Ludwigsburg on January 21 at 4:15 p.m. Admission is free. For more information go to [www.ludwigsburg.de](http://www.ludwigsburg.de)

#### Exhibition: It Goes On

Thu, Jan 21

**Plochingen, Galerie der Stadt**

Dusa Isjanov and Verena Könekamp are Plochingen born artists that have traveled the world in search of inspiration before returning home to put their ideas into sculptures, paintings and textiles. Between January 21 and February 21, you can witness their modern art at Plochingen's Galerie der Stadt. Admission is free. To get more information about the artist you can go to [www.plochingen.de](http://www.plochingen.de) or for a sneak peek visit [www.isjanov.de](http://www.isjanov.de)

#### North American Film Festival

Fri, Jan 22

**Stuttgart, city center**

Once again the North American Film Festival will take place in Stuttgart, this year from January 21 to 24. At this year's festival a variety of Native American movie projects will be presented under the motto "In tomorrow we believe." All movies will be shown in native language and you will have the chance to speak to some of the producers. For more info and a detailed program with times and locations see [www.nordamerika-filmfestival.com](http://www.nordamerika-filmfestival.com)

#### Boat fair

Sat, Jan 23

**Düsseldorf, Messegelände**

Don't miss this year's boat fair "boot" at the Messegelände Düsseldorf from January 23 to 31. Discover new trends and accessories for all water sports and all types of boats from yachts to jet skis. During the fair raffles, a children's program and different workshops will be available. Ticket price is €22. Opening hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day. For more info see [www.boot.de](http://www.boot.de)

#### Creative fair

Sat, Jan 23 – Sun, Jan 24

**Ludwigshafen, Friedrich-Ebert-Halle**

Visit the biggest fair for handicrafts and artwork between Frankfurt and Stuttgart – the "Rhein-Neckar-Creative" hosted by the Friedrich-Ebert-Halle in Ludwigshafen on February 8 and 9. During the fair, handmade art as well as handicrafts made by well-known exhibitors can be purchased. Additionally, a variety of workshops for kids and adults will take place. Opening hours are Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information go to [www.ludwigshafen-eberthalle.de](http://www.ludwigshafen-eberthalle.de)

#### Antique book fair

Thu, Jan 28 – Sat, Jan 30

**Ludwigsburg, Musikhalle**

The 30th Antiquaria (antique book fair) will be hosted at the Musikhalle Ludwigsburg from January 28 to 30. More than 50 exhibitors from countries like Germany, Austria, France and more will display old books, graphics and autographs from the 15th to the 20th century. This year's fair focus is on the motto "Women." For more info visit [www.antiquaria-ludwigsburg.de](http://www.antiquaria-ludwigsburg.de).

#### Harlem Globetrotters

Sat, Mar 19

**München, Olympiahalle**

These professional and yet funny basketball players are celebrating their 90th anniversary tour this year. The Harlem Globetrotters are going to give you a show of a lifetime. Why not purchase the magic pass that give you the opportunity to get tips from them and even snag an autograph and picture from them. If you want to be up close and personal, get the player seat fan tickets which include the Magic Pass, VIP pass and fan packet. All this includes the tour program, a keychain, and a basketball jersey with an autograph. Ticket price starts at €40.15. Get your tickets quickly as they are selling fast. For more information go to [www.harlemglobetrotters-deutschland.de](http://www.harlemglobetrotters-deutschland.de)

### CONCERTS

#### Sunrise Avenue

Thu, Mar 24

**Stuttgart, Hanns-Martin-Schleyer**

Sunrise Avenue is one of the most talented bands in Europe. See them

live as they go on tour with Wonderland Orchestra. The show starts at 8 p.m. Ticket prices start at €48.90. For more information about the show go to [www.eventim.de](http://www.eventim.de)

#### Anastacia

Fri, Apr 29

**Stuttgart, Liederhalle Beethovensaal**

Anastacia is an American singer and songwriter who is known for her soul voice. See her live on April 29 in Stuttgart as she presents her "Ultimate Collection" tour. The show will start at 8 p.m. Ticket prices start at €67.90. For more information go to [www.eventim.de](http://www.eventim.de)

### SPORTS

#### Handball

Sun, Jan 17

**Vaihingen, Sporthalle Fanny**

Handball can be an aggressive sport even though there should not be any body contact and requires the players to be quick on their feet. See SV Vaihingen play against TSV Altensteig on January 17 in Vaihingen. The game starts at 5 p.m. For more information go to [www.svv-handball.de](http://www.svv-handball.de)

#### Volleyball

Sat, Jan 23

**Stuttgart, Scharrena**

Allianz MTV Stuttgart is a fierce women's volleyball team, ready to play against VT Aurubis Hamburg on January 23 from 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at €10. To get more information and reserve your spot/seat at their home stadium, the SCHARrena in Stuttgart go to [www.scharrena.de](http://www.scharrena.de)

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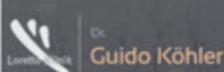
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