

# Driving drunk: Poor judgement can wreck military careers

By **Brittany Carlson**

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

It was a devastating mistake. What started out as a couple of drinks turned into a nightmare that will follow one Army non-commissioned officer for the rest of his military career — all because he got behind the wheel.

The NCO — whom we will refer to as Sgt. John Smith for the purpose of this story — was assigned to a unit in the Stuttgart military community when he entered a German bar on July 29, 2009.

He had developed a habit of drinking heavily following a 14-month deployment to Iraq with a former unit.

“I drank and drove probably for a good seven or eight months,” Smith said. “It got to the point where it didn’t seem to bother me anymore.”

That night, however, when the Polizei pulled him over, everything changed.

A breathalyzer test revealed Smith’s blood-alcohol content level to be 0.083. The legal limit in Germany is of 0.05. For those involved in an accident, the limit is 0.03.

His command was notified, and he received a general officer letter of reprimand, filed in his permanent record.

“That’s going to haunt me for the rest of my career,” Smith said.

He was also punished with a field grade-level Article 15 from his command, which reduced his rank from E-5 to E-4.

“I went from a supervisory pay grade to a junior enlisted pay grade,” Smith said. “That’s a huge drop.”

It took Smith more than a year to regain his rank, in which time he estimates that he lost more than \$8,000 in basic pay.

The cost affected more than his wallet, however.



Photo illustration by Brittany Carlson

**Lt. John Cable (right), a traffic accident investigator for the Department of the Army Civilian Police, role-plays issuing a breathalyzer test to a Soldier stationed in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart. In Germany, the legal a blood-alcohol content limit is 0.05.**

Once reduced, he received 45 days of restriction to post and extended duty, where he worked from 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week, and forfeited half of two months’ pay. Smith’s driver’s license was also revoked for one year.

The punishment was hard on his family. “It was a very stressful time for them,” he said. “I had never been in trouble in my life when it happened, and I paid the consequences for it. It was an enormous shocker.”

Additionally, his unit requested that he be separated from the Army for misconduct. As an NCO with six years of service, Smith was entitled to a separa-

tion board made up of his superiors. He was recommended for retention, based on his performance record.

However, he still struggled to be accepted back into his unit. “The guys were telling me that I wasn’t fit to wear the uniform,” Smith said.

Once back at work, Smith was often called upon to talk about his experience, as an example. “It was very, very demeaning to be called out time and time again in front of a large group of people,” he said.

“I still have a stigma to this day with certain superiors,” he added.

He spent the following year in the

Army Substance Abuse Program and went through a six-week rehabilitation program in Landstuhl.

“I used every resource available to me, as far as support goes,” Smith said. “I was determined to get through this.”

Since then, he has limited his drinking and never drives himself to a bar. He also warns other Soldiers about the consequences of drinking and driving.

“I have agreed to put my story out there to prevent other Soldiers from making the same mistake, if they listen,” he said.

See **DUI** on page 4

**Page 3**

**GEN. Ward honors MLK at observance**

U.S. Africa Command Commander GEN. William E. “Kip” Ward discussed the impact Martin Luther King Jr. continues to have on America during a garrison observance.



**Page 6**

**PES students get immersed in language**

The Patch Elementary School German Partial Language Immersion classes keep students on their toes by teaching them to read, write and speak in German.



INSIDE  
THIS  
EDITION

# Beat winter blues, improve your health: volunteer

Editorial by Susan Huseman

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

The presents are unwrapped, the decorations are put away and the relatives are gone.

After weeks of whirlwind holiday activities, many of us may find ourselves feeling a little let down. Add to this the gloom of gray skies, and before you know it, you've got a full-blown case of the winter blues.

Sure, you can try vitamin C, submit to light therapy, eat organic or even resort to Prozac.

But there is a very simple way to cure the winter blues and possibly even improve your health without pills.

Volunteer.

A 2007 study conducted by the Corporation for National and Community Service suggests that volunteering actually leads to improved health.

*Volunteering can help fight the winter blues simply by getting people involved in the lives of others.*

"The Health Benefits of Volunteering: A Review of Recent Research" found that "volunteers have greater longevity, higher functional ability, lower rates of depression and less incidence of heart disease."

Volunteering can help fight the winter blues simply by getting people involved in the lives of others. So, why aren't more people volunteering?

One of the most popular reasons people give for not volunteering is that they don't have time. Many think that volunteering takes a regular commitment, but there are lots of one-time opportunities like helping out at an

event or cleaning up a park that can have a big impact.

In the last two months, the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Volunteer Corps program sought out volunteers to set up for a yard sale at the Patch Community Club, work in the Kelley Community Mail Room during the holiday season, and help out at Army Community Service.

All three asked no more than a four-hour commitment.

Another excuse is that people don't think their efforts make a difference. All you have to do is look at last year's volunteer results in the Stuttgart military community to realize this is simply not true.

Last year, volunteers donated more than 200,000 hours of their time across the community. They organized spelling bees, taught Sunday school and coached youth sports, among other things.

Their efforts saved the garrison

more than \$4 million in labor costs.

Volunteers make the Stuttgart military community a better place to live by adding programs and events that aren't funded by the garrison, according to Laura Jean Davis, the garrison's volunteer coordinator. "If we didn't have volunteers to do it, it wouldn't happen," she said.

Another excuse is that the paperwork involved in tracking volunteer hours is too time consuming.

Those were the old days.

USAG Stuttgart volunteers register and keep track of their hours through the Volunteer Management Information System, an online tool that provides a real-time snapshot of volunteer activities at any given time.

Jennifer Jones, a volunteer, uses the system to log the hours she puts in with the ACS Information and Referral program. "It's a step by step process — it's not complicated," she said.

The USAG Stuttgart Volunteer Corps program has hundreds of volunteer opportunities that offer flexible hours, hands-on experience and training.

Don't let the winter blues defeat you this year. Tackle them head-on by volunteering.

## CORRECTION

The article "U.S. Navy prepares for future of information warfare" in the Jan. 13 issue of *The Citizen* (page 3), states that the Information Dominance Corps is an initiative of the U.S. Cyber Command. The story should have read "... is an initiative of Chief of Naval Operations N2/N6."

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## ON THE STREET

*How do you give back to the community?*



Nicole Kinsey  
(Civilian)

"I'm part of the BEMS PTA. I hosted a middle school dance."



Lt. Michael Lincoln  
(U.S. Navy)

"I've mentored to the young and tried to set a good example."



Sgt. Antonette Paguirganblake  
(U.S. Army)

"I volunteer at church."



Brian Springfield  
(Contractor)

"It's always about thinking about others — giving someone a ready smile."



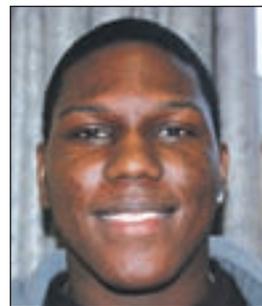
Lt. Col. Barbara Jones  
(U.S. Army)

"I try to do things with the local [German] community."



Lt. Cmdr. Sam Poteete  
(U.S. Navy)

"I was my church youth group leader. In my women's ministry at church I [host] tea parties."



Rykendrick Cohen  
(Civilian)

"I pick up trash. I donate my clothes, too."



Gudrun Kaper  
(Local National retiree)

"[By] teaching my mother tongue, encouraging people to connect with local community."

# Ward leads MLK Jr. tribute

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

In 1964, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. made history. His work to ensure equality between races and promote nonviolent protest resulted in his becoming the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Almost 50 years later, another African American man who made history honored him during the Martin Luther King Jr. observance held in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Jan. 20.

GEN. William E. "Kip" Ward, the fifth African American to become a four-star general and the first commander of U.S. Africa Command, shared his memories of King in the 1960s, and encouraged community members to continue King's vision of helping the "underprivileged and underrepresented" of mankind.

Ward recalled being a high school student during King's civil rights movement and feeling the excitement in preparation for King's "I Have a Dream" speech. He also recalled the shock of hearing about King's assassination in 1968 while an ROTC cadet in college.

While King protested the Vietnam War, Ward wore a military uniform. But Ward came to realize that he and King were not so different in their philosophies. Both men believed that serving others and helping the underprivileged — as Ward does by focusing on war prevention and AIDS assistance on the African continent as the leader of AFRICOM — is the worthiest ambition that a person can have.

"Did he influence me? You'd better believe he did," Ward said. "His message of service is applicable — and it rings loud — today."

Ward also challenged community members to serve others in their own spheres of influence.

"The point [is] you can serve your fellow human beings in any and all capacities. Each of us is here to do that ...," he said. "Those who are underrepresented, those who are disadvantaged — we have an obligation to improve their lot."

After the official observance, community members took part in a themed buffet, which included "Peaceful Prime Rib," prepared and served by men from the community gospel and contemporary church services.

The observance also featured a gospel song selection, performed by the Community Gospel Choir.

Several attendees expressed their appreciation for Ward and the way he memorialized King, both in



**GEN. William E. "Kip" Ward, U.S. Africa Command commander, talks about why Martin Luther King Jr.'s life is worth emulating, during the USAG Stuttgart MLK Jr. observance Jan. 20.**

words and deeds.

"What Martin Luther King impressed years ago, [Ward] implemented into his life," said Cassandra Ross, a family member. "It impressed on us that we need to continue the 'dream' — that we need to serve others."

During the observance, Garrison Commander Carl D. Bird thanked Ward for speaking and for his military service.

"Just as Dr. King devoted his life to serving others, Gen. Ward devoted most of his life — almost 40 years of it — to serving our nation," Bird said.

Ward, in turn, thanked Sgt. 1st Class Chrysti Lassiter-Jones, USAG Stuttgart Equal Opportunity advisor, for the impact she has had on the community through coordinating events like this one, by giving her one of his commander's coins.

He also thanked the community for honoring King's memory and continuing his legacy of service.

"Let me thank you for taking the time to recognize, to acknowledge and pay some degree of tribute to the work that was done by an American who lived his life on behalf of others," he said.



**The Community Gospel Choir performs a selection of spiritual songs to honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart observance Jan. 20 in the Patch Community Club. For more photos, visit [www.flickr.com/photos/usagstuttgart](http://www.flickr.com/photos/usagstuttgart).**

## News & Notes

### Mandatory TARP briefings

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart will hold Threat Awareness and Reporting Program briefings for military and civilian personnel. Family members are also encouraged to attend.

Briefings in English are scheduled in the Patch Theater Feb. 7-11 at 9 and 11 a.m., and 1 p.m.; a 3 p.m. briefing will also be held on Feb. 8 and 10.

In the Kelley Theatre, English briefings will be held Feb. 14-17 at 9 and 11 a.m., and 1 p.m.; on Feb. 15 and 17 a 3 p.m. briefing is also scheduled. On Feb. 18, briefings will be held at 9 and 11 a.m.

Briefings in German will be held Feb. 7, 9 and 11 at 3 p.m. in the Patch Theater, and Feb. 14 and 16 at 3 p.m. in the Kelley Theatre.

This is an annual training requirement for military personnel and civilian employees.

For more information, call the Stuttgart Field Office at 430-4586/civ. 0711-680-4586.

*(This information was provided by the Stuttgart Field Office.)*

### Technology expo Feb. 8

The Patch Barracks/Stuttgart Area Technology Exposition will be held on Feb. 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Swabian Special Events Center.

The free event is hosted by the U.S. European Command J6, Defense Information Systems Agency-Europe, and the Stuttgart chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association. All military, civilian, and contractor personnel are invited.

More than 30 exhibitors will demonstrate the latest in military/Homeland Security equipment, web services, training and distance learning, information assurance and security, video/multimedia presentation, and computers and networking equipment.

To pre-register, visit [www.FederalEvents.com](http://www.FederalEvents.com), click on "Patch Barracks," choose the "To Attend" tab, and click on the Pre-Register link.

### DITCO-Europe relocates

The Defense Information Technology Contracting Office-Europe has relocated to Stuttgart.

Col. Beth Bierden, Defense Information Systems Agency, Europe commander, and her staff hosted a welcoming ceremony for Lt. Col. Freddie Rosas and his team on Patch Barracks last month.

DITCO moved to Stuttgart from its home of 40 years — Sembach Air Base. The partnership is estimated to save DISA \$158 million a year.

*(This information was provided by Defense Information Systems Agency-Europe.)*

### Missing some money?

Community members who have recently lost money in the vicinity of the Panzer Mall should visit the eXchange customer service office (inside the main exchange).

Those who correctly identify the amount of money lost, by denomination, and the suspected location, date and time will be reimbursed.

*(This information was provided by AAFES.)*

# DUI

Continued from page 1

## German law and DUI

Drivers do not have to drink several alcoholic drinks to end up with a story like Smith's.

The legal limit in Germany is 0.05, lower than the U.S. limit of 0.08. The German limit applies on post as well.

This limit can be reached by drinking one drink or less, according to Bala Fischer, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Army Substance Abuse Program director.

"The mistake people tend to [make] is they think one drink is OK," Fischer said. "If you drink at all ... do not get behind the wheel."

Those caught drinking and driving in Germany could be detained by the German police, even if they are driving below the limit, according to Army Capt. Scott Goble, trial counsel for the Stuttgart Law Center.

"Anytime you drive with alcohol on your breath, the Polizei can arrest you," he said.

"Folks in Europe really need to have that in the back of their mind — they're risking more by having a couple of drinks in Europe and driving home than they would in the States," Goble added.

## Service members

There are several repercussions for service members of all branches caught driving while intoxicated in Germany.

Under Army in Europe Regulation 190-1, if a service member's BAC is between 0.05 and 0.079, their U.S. Army Europe driver's license will be suspended for 90 days.

If their BAC is 0.08 or more, their license will be revoked for a year.

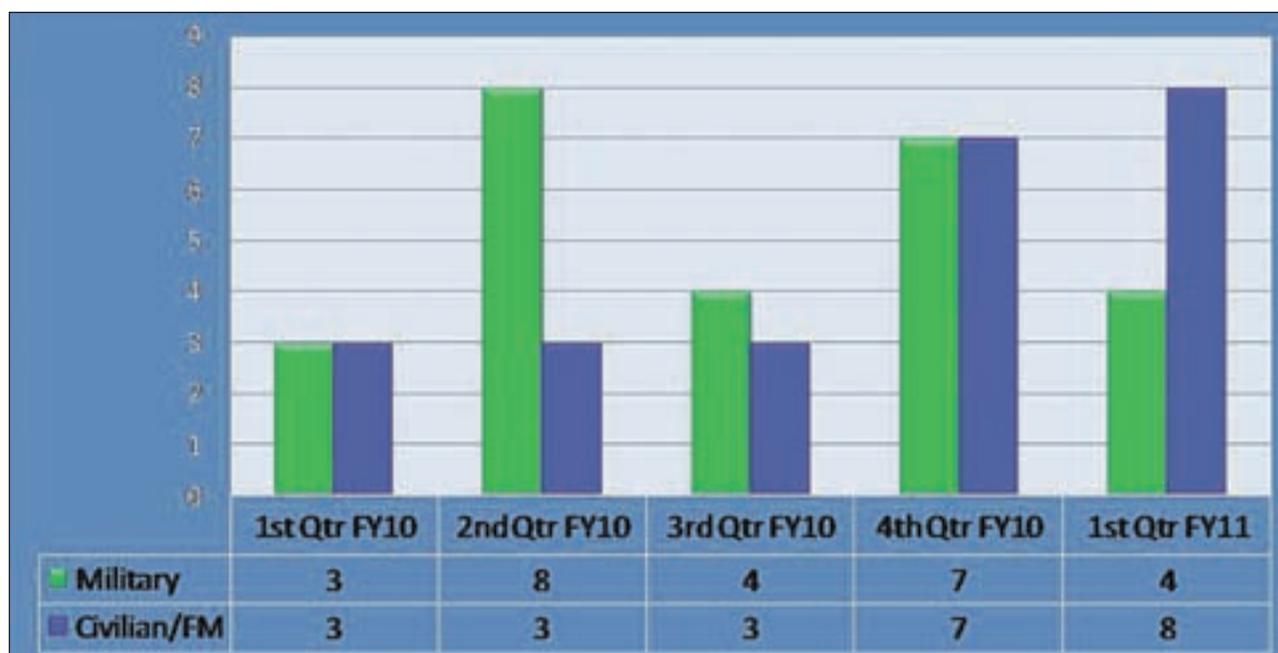
Two DUI convictions within five years will result in a five-year revocation of the license, and three alcohol-related traffic offenses will result in the permanent loss of the U.S. Forces license, Goble said.

To reinstate their driver's license after a DUI incident, service members and civilians must complete the ASAP training, take remedial drivers' training, and possess a stateside driver's license before they can obtain a letter from the garrison commander recommending reinstatement.

Only service members are required to take ASAP training; however, Fischer recommends everyone visit the ASAP office soon after an incident to get the process started, rather than waiting until the revocation period is over.

In addition to a license suspension, service members under the jurisdiction of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command who are caught driving with a BAC of 0.05 or more will receive a General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand, which can be filed locally or in their permanent file, Goble said.

Those caught driving with a BAC



The Army Substance Abuse Program DUI chart shows the number of drunk driving cases in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart from the first quarter of fiscal year 2010 to the first quarter of FY2011.

of 0.1 or more are in violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and face either a court-martial or, more commonly, a non-judicial action (Article 15) from their commander, Goble said.

Under Article 15, the maximum punishment could include:

E-4 and below: loss of all rank to E-1, loss of half of one month's pay for two months, and up to 60 days of extra duties and restriction to the garrison.

E-5/E-6: loss of one rank, loss of half of one month's pay for two months, and up to 60 days of extra duties and restriction to the garrison.

E-7 and above: may lose rank if punishment is imposed by a general officer, loss of half a month's pay for two months, and 45 days of extra duties and restriction to the garrison.

Officer: no loss of rank, restriction for 30 days, arrest in quarters for 60 days, loss of half of one month's pay for two months.

Driving with a BAC of over 0.1, or any level of intoxication sufficient to impair the mental or physical faculties, could be tried at a court-martial, Goble added.

At a court-martial for drunken driving, the maximum punishment a service member could receive is:

- If a personal injury is caused: dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement for 18 months
- If no injury: bad-conduct discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances and confinement for six months

In 2009, Army Regulation 600-85 was amended to require that Soldiers be initiated for separation if they:

- Receive two convictions of DUI during the course of their career, or
- Are involved in two incidences of alcohol-related misconduct per year.

## Civilians

Unlike service members, civilian employees and their family members who drive while intoxicated fall under German jurisdiction for fines and court orders, in addition to the garrison Civilian Misconduct Action Authority.

Civilians who apply for a U.S. Army Europe driver's license become subject to AER 190-1 and imply consent to disciplinary actions by the CMAA if found in violation of the law, said Georgia Harville-Hummel, Chief of International Affairs at the Stuttgart Law Center.

Civilians caught driving under the influence of alcohol with a BAC level of 0.1 and above may be fined more than €1,000 and issued penal orders by local courts upon request of the district attorney, she added. A penal order is a summary judgment — a criminal fine.

"Penal orders have harsher consequences than a traffic ticket," Harville-Hummel said. "It's more of a criminal misdemeanor kind of judgment."

When a civilian does not pay a penal order, German authorities will order confinement in lieu of payment for a number of days corresponding to the amount of the fine, she said.

Depending on their BAC, civilians will also have their driver's license suspended or revoked.

U.S. Forces are bound by agreement to revoke a USAREUR license for as long as the German government requires, but they may also extend the period of punishment.

In addition, USAREUR may indefinitely revoke driving privileges for individuals who have multiple violations, she added.

## No excuse

To provide more ways to avoid drinking and driving, many Army units provide assistance to Soldiers who make the right choice.

## BY THE NUMBERS:

In fiscal year 2010, the Stuttgart military community recorded **38 DUI cases**. These involved:

- **22** service members (2 officers, 7 senior enlisted and 13 junior enlisted)
- **11** DOD civilians
- **5** family members.

More statistics:

- **5** were female
- **33** were male
- **24** incidents occurred after 3 a.m.

In the first quarter of FY 2011, there were **12 cases** — twice as many as the first quarter of FY 2010.

For example, the 52nd Signal Battalion Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment, keeps a taxi fund available.

"There's no reason why someone can't pay a taxi driver because we have money available," said Sgt. 1st Class Todd Parsons, detachment sergeant. "A lot of Soldiers use the taxi fund. It's a lot better than getting picked up for DUI."

Parsons also tells Soldiers to drink responsibly and never hesitate to ask for a lift if they have been drinking. They can also use public transportation, use one of two German taxi services that can come on post, or use a designated driver.

Regardless of the method, avoiding DUI is vital for protecting a military career, Goble added.

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

# Optometry center expands on-post eye care

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

For the first time, non-military community members in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart can make eye exam appointments, order contacts and glasses, and see a doctor for acute eye conditions at a facility on post.

The Panzer Optical Center and Panzer Optometry Care facility opened in December in the Panzer Mall, bringing the community a level of eye care comparable to that in the U.S.

"It's nice to finally be here," said Dr. Eggie Lebron, optometrist. "People are really excited. In [a recent] tenant meeting, people were clapping."

Until recently, only active duty service members could make eye appointments at the Stuttgart Army Health Clinic — family members and civilians had to wait to be seen on a space-available basis, or get a referral to an off-post clinic.

Now, all ID cardholders can make appointments at Panzer Optometry Care without a referral.

Panzer Optometry Care is a Tricare Prime Europe provider, so family members enrolled in the program are covered for annual eye exams. Those not covered under Tricare Prime Europe will be charged at rates comparable to clinics in the U.S.

Optometry Care patients can receive fittings for all types of contact lenses, including colored, multi-focal and gas-permeable. They can also obtain urgent care for



Dr. Eggie Lebron (right), optometrist for the newly opened Panzer Optometry Care facility, examines the eyes of Melanie McMahon, an optical lab assistant at the new Panzer Optical Center next door. Panzer Optometry Care is open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Panzer Optical Center is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ocular conditions. Off-post, they would normally need to visit multiple clinics for the same service, Lebron added. "Here, you're just making one appointment."

Linda Reynolds, a civilian spouse, recalled visiting German eye clinics before Panzer Optometry Care opened and appreciates the difference.

"It [was] very expensive. It takes a lot of time, many hours at multiple appointments. It was very difficult, actually, to even find a German provider that spoke enough English ...," she said.

At the Panzer facility, Lebron can speak fluent English, German and Spanish.

Patients at Panzer Optometry Care can also get their

stateside driver's license renewal forms filled out, and try on glasses next door at the Panzer Optical Center. The optical center makes lenses in-store and is staffed by U.S.-trained and certified opticians.

Lebron relocated to Stuttgart from the USAG Mannheim Vision Center, which closed in October. USAG Stuttgart has replaced it as one of three military community optometry centers in Europe.

"Now, we have our Mannheim patients coming down to Stuttgart. We have people also coming from places like Grafenwöhr," Lebron said.

To make an appointment, call civ. 07031-204-2350.

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Birgit Thompson

## Spell it out

Siblings Sasha (from left) and Susanna Ortiz battle to win the Böblingen Elementary/Middle School Spelling Bee Jan. 21, while announcer Helene Harper listens for the correct answer. Susanna, 12, took first place and will represent Stuttgart in the Germany-wide spelling bee in Ramstein.

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# German immersion class empowers students

Story & photos by Tanya Fogg Young  
Special to The Citizen

Excitedly offering up their thoughts about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, a third-grade Patch Elementary class watched as teacher Robin Tessereau wrote their narrative on the board — in German.

Members of the 20-student German Partial Immersion class recently used a combination of German and English to express themselves as Tessereau listened intently and wrote their thoughts. Then, groups of up to four students took turns standing and synchronously reading what the class composed.

“Martin Luther King Jr. war ein guter Mensch. Er hat in seinem Leben viele gute Sachen gemacht,” their narrative began. “Die schwarzen Kinder durften nicht mit den weißen Kindern spielen. Martin Luther King Jr. hat gesagt, das ist nicht richtig.”

A student offered this English translation as Tessereau smiled, nodding her approval: “Martin Luther King Jr. was a good person. In his life he did a lot of good things. The black children were not allowed to play with the white children. Martin Luther King Jr. said that was not right.”

Tessereau's third-grade class is one of four at Patch Elementary in the German Partial Language Immersion program. Anna Ingalls teaches the first-grade class, Shirley Julock the second-grade class and Stefan Zappey heads a multi-age class of first- through third-graders. Students enrolled in the program receive instruction in German in the subjects of math, science and social studies for approximately half of the school day.

“In the primary years, kids are acquiring language, and learning another language is just adding more words,” said Ingalls, adding that she started the immersion program at Patch Elementary about 15 years ago. “The earlier children acquire a language, the easier it is for them. The world is getting smaller and we need to be more global in our thinking.”

The Partial Language Immersion programs in some Department of Defense Dependents elementary schools make up an effort to help prepare students for a global marketplace in which corporations are increasingly looking for employees with foreign language proficiency. The DODDS system offers the



Children vie to be called on during Robin Tessereau's third-grade German Partial Immersion class at Patch Elementary School. The class recently composed a German narrative about Martin Luther King Jr.

programs worldwide, varying by location, in Spanish, French, Italian, Korean, Arabic and Japanese.

In learning to understand and communicate in German, students tend to become better learners of English, said Tessereau, who taught eight years in a full German immersion school in Milwaukee, Wis., and 12 years of German in high school.

“They become better listeners and observers — better “decoders” who take their critical thinking skills from the language — and apply them to other subjects,” she said. “They're better in comprehension and at deriving meaning.”

Language immersion, Tessereau added, is all about youngsters making connections between what they learn in class and what they encounter in their daily lives.

Alexandra Preston, 9, weekly orders bread and sometimes milk and eggs from a bakery in Vaihingen.

“The earlier children acquire a language, the easier it is for them.”

Anna Ingalls

PES German Immersion class teacher

“I speak to them in German,” Preston, one of Tessereau's students, said proudly. “I'm having a lot of fun, and the class has been really good.”

Julock, second-grade immersion teacher, said parents often tell her that they don't realize how much their children know until they see them communicating with others out on the economy.

Parent Libby Phillips, whose third-grade son Matthew is in his second year of the immersion program, said she is impressed by his growing openness and comfort in speaking German. “I'm the translator for the family,” 9-year-old Matthew said. “I live in a village where I can have conversations with Germans — it's so cool.”

PES Principal Robert Allen said he would like to expand the school's program to kindergarten and fourth grade, but faces the dilemmas of not having the teaching vacancies to add the grade levels and the difficulty in finding Department of Defense Education Activity-certified teachers with the required fluency to teach the language.

Even so, parent AnnMary Driscoll said that if her third-grade son Ned isn't able to continue beyond this school year in the program — his first — he will have gained some invaluable knowledge nonetheless.

“The first couple of weeks were really frustrating for him, but now he's just fearless and plows right in there,” said Driscoll, whose family moved to the Stuttgart area from Key West, Fla., last August. “If nothing else, he knows how frustrating it is to be the new kid learning a new language.”

Claire Loucks, 9, reads a German narrative on Martin Luther King Jr. that she and her classmates composed during Robin Tessereau's third-grade German Partial Language Immersion class. Classes like this are part of a DODDS effort to prepare students for a global marketplace.



# Fashion show celebrates ‘rags to riches’ support

Story & photos by Susan Huseman  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

When the desire for fashion exceeds one’s pocketbook, what’s a cash-strapped fashionista to do?

Shop at the Patch and Robinson Barracks thrift shops, according to Catherine Carson, the creative force behind the Stuttgart Community Spouses Club fashion show held Jan. 18 in the Patch Community Club.

Carson spent two months scouring through thrift shop clothing donations in preparation for the show.

“We found everything from fishing gear to ice skating outfits, and everything in between,” Carson said. “It was like a treasure hunt.”

During the show, 10 models circulated through the ballroom wearing donated brand name fashions, such as Pendleton, Abercrombie & Fitch, and Ann Klein, while more than 80 club members enjoyed a casual lunch.

The fashion show was a way to highlight the contributions of the SCSC-managed thrift shops, said Carson. Revenues generated from their sales of donated and consigned items go toward charitable and scholarship funds.

Last year, the club gave \$199,638 to more than 40 local organizations and agencies such as the American Red Cross, the Piranhas Swim Team, local Parent and Teacher Associations and



*Carmen Carlisle (left photo) models a formal gown while Kelly King, 14, (right photo) wears an asymmetrical party dress during the Stuttgart Community Spouses Club Fashion Show on Jan. 18. The highlighted clothing pieces were plucked from items donated to the club’s thrift shops.*

Patch High School sports teams.

In fact, before the fashion show got underway, SCSC members voted to give \$3,000 to the Patch High School junior class for their prom and almost \$5,500 for improvements to the public address system in the PHS Forum.

“We’re really proud to be able to help these organizations,” said Melissa Harvey, the SCSC welfare committee chairperson. She pointed out that the club’s financial support can go a long

way in helping a team, such as the Patch High rifle team, be more competitive. “We’re able to help our kids go back to the States and compete at the region championships.”

Twenty community members benefited last year from the SCSC scholarship program. “This year we have more than \$50,000 for scholarships,” said Carmen Richardson, the SCSC president.

It all takes money, and while the

thrift shops generate a considerable amount of cash, they are not SCSC’s sole source of fundraising. The heavy hitter is the annual Spring Bazaar, scheduled for March 18-20.

The bazaar, located on Patch Barracks in the fitness center, community club and fest tents, will feature 70 vendors offering a wide variety of European collectibles such as Polish pottery, Italian ceramics and English antiques, and consumables such as wine, Dutch cheeses and Belgian chocolates, according to Ann Welton, vice president and bazaar chairperson.

And while much of the SCSC’s focus is on giving financial support to the Stuttgart military community, it’s also a great place to form lasting friendships, said fashion show coordinator Carson. “There are so many opportunities to meet people. We have monthly functions, take trips and have a great crystal bingo party at the end of the year,” she said.

Membership is open to spouses and members of the all military branches, Defense Department civilians, contractors, employees of other organizations granted status under the NATO Status of Forces Agreement and other civilians holding a valid U.S. passport who reside in the Stuttgart community.

For more information, visit [www.stuttgartspousesclub.org](http://www.stuttgartspousesclub.org).



Photos by Susan Huseman

*Allison Jameson (left) and LaCashana Knight take part in a Bosu class.*



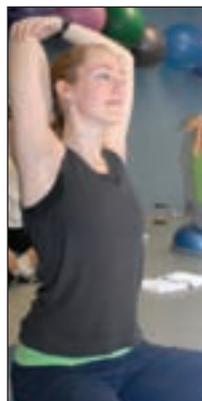
*Leslie Stubbs leads a belly dancing class during the aerobathon.*



*Before Ruben Olguin begins teaching a kettlebell seminar, he warms up by doing a Turkish get-up, going from a supine position to a standing position and back down again with a fully extended arm—all the while holding a 36-pound kettlebell.*

## Fitness frenzy

Patch Fitness Center was swarming with activity during its annual aerobathon Jan. 22. “We want to give everyone a taste of all the group fitness classes we have to offer,” said Ricky Payton, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart fitness coordinator. During the Family and MWR-sponsored event, community members were able to take part in a multitude of free back-to-back fitness classes. Many, like Maria Lubambo, participated in Zumba, Bosu, belly dancing and yoga. “My favorite is Zumba. You get a workout while having a great time. You come out of class feeling rejuvenated,” she said.



*[Left] Cara Metell cools down by stretching after a Bosu workout.*



*[Right] Jennifer Sheppard takes part in a spin class.*

# Life, post-military: ACAP prepares U.S. service members for civilian job market

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

For 12 years, Staff Sgt. Sydney Calderon never worried about job interviews or resumes. He just went wherever the Army sent him, and did what he was told.

But, now that he's decided to leave full-time military service, they are at the top of his to-do list.

Fortunately for Calderon and the thousands of other Soldiers who separate or retire from the Army each year — 72,780 Soldiers received pre-separation counseling in fiscal year 2010 — there's help. The Army Career and Alumni Program provides pre-separation counseling, information on veteran's benefits, and classes on how to nab jobs in the civilian arena.

"It's helped me understand more [of] what to expect once I go home and start going to job interviews," said Calderon, a Soldier assigned to the U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, who plans to separate from the Army in September.

Calderon signed up for several classes at the Stuttgart ACAP facility, located on Panzer Kaserne. So far, he has taken a Transition Assistance Program workshop and is scheduled to attend a Veterans Affairs benefits brief.

"It'll definitely help out a lot," said Calderon, who is looking at jobs in the intelligence field. "I'm learning a lot of things I never even knew."

Stuttgart ACAP offers classes on a variety of topics to all eligible service members in all service branches and



**Army Staff Sgt. Sydney Calderon (left) discusses his post-military career plans with Julie Halstead, a counselor for the USAG Stuttgart Army Career and Alumni Program. Stuttgart's ACAP is open to all service members.**

their family members.

ACAP seminars address how to apply for a federal job, along with private sector jobs. ACAP students also learn how to target their resume toward specific job announcements, according to Julie Halstead, Stuttgart ACAP counselor.

Each quarter, Halstead teaches an interview preparation course. "I help them polish a 30-second commercial," or quick speech designed to advertise their talents to a potential boss or company insider, Halstead said.

The ACAP office also provides pre-separation counseling, which is mandatory for Soldiers. At the Stuttgart branch, at least 20 service members

receive this initial counseling each month, according to Halstead.

During these sessions, the service members fill out questionnaires on their plans for the future and information needs before talking to a counselor.

"I sit down with them, review their pre-separation checklist and elaborate on things they have interest in, and point to resources where they can learn more," Halstead said.

Then, Halstead explains the types of benefits they may be eligible for as veterans.

She encourages all service members to attend a Veterans Affairs benefits briefing, taught through the

ACAP office.

"VA benefits have value, not just for them, but for their family members," Halstead said.

Separating Soldiers are required to schedule a pre-separation counseling session no later than 90 days before their estimated time of separation, but can begin ACAP up to 12 months before.

Retiring Soldiers are eligible to begin the ACAP process two years out from retirement, regardless of whether or not they have submitted paperwork.

Halstead recommended that service members come in as soon as possible, in order to receive maximum benefits.

"We encourage them to get involved with ACAP early, so they don't have any surprises, [and] so they're not rushed and stressed at the end," Halstead said.

ACAP can direct service members to where they can find information tailored to their needs, Halstead said. It also provides a buoy of support to service members during the often-stressful transition period.

"One of the best combaters of stress is to have information and be prepared," Halstead said.

*ACAP will host an interview preparation seminar Feb. 11 from 9 a.m. to noon, specifically geared to prepare service members for the AUSA Job Fair coming to Sindelfingen Feb. 18-21.*

*ACAP office hours are Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.*

*For more information, call the ACAP Office at 431-2191/2192/civ. 07031-15-2191/2192, or e-mail julie.halstead@us.army.mil.*

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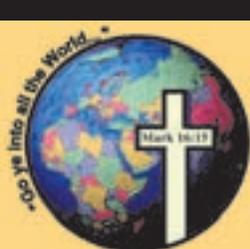
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Church Phone: 0711-489-3548  
E-mail: [baptist@pjsnet.de](mailto:baptist@pjsnet.de)  
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*Holding Forth the Word of Life Phil. 2:16*

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Fellowship Coffee . . . . . 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship . . 11:00 a.m.  
Thursday Prayer Meeting . . 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Ron Benzing  
cell: 0173-415-6886, office: 0711-93388243  
Schockenriedstrasse 42 · 70565 Vaihingen

**Find community photos on our flickr site at [www.flickr.com/photos.usagstuttgart](http://www.flickr.com/photos.usagstuttgart).**

**RB APO relocates**

The Robinson Barracks Army Post Office will close Jan. 27 due to the renovation of the CX. The APO will temporarily open Feb. 1 in the RB Community Mail Room in Building 196, until it moves to its permanent location (Hilltop Hotel) in February. Operating hours will remain the same: Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m.

**Estate claims**

Anyone having any claims on or obligations to the estate of Terry L. Crawford of Trailboss Enterprises should contact the summary court officer, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jeremy Smith, at 421-4218/civ. 0711-729-4218.

**Scholarship ball**

The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Germany Alumnae Chapter will host its annual scholarship ball Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. in Armstrong's Club, located in the Vogelweh Housing Area in Kaiserslautern. Attire is formal. For tickets, contact Sharon Bell at civ. 0173-470-3976.

**Scholarship opportunities for students**

• Army Emergency Relief applications for 2010-2011 scholarships are now available for dependent children of active duty, retired and deceased Soldiers. The deadline to apply is April 1.

For more information, visit [www.aerhq.org](http://www.aerhq.org).

• The Germany Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is accepting scholarship applications from DODDS high school seniors. The deadline is March 25.

For more information, visit [www.dstger.org/doc/Delta2011applic.doc](http://www.dstger.org/doc/Delta2011applic.doc).

• The Stuttgart Community Spouses Club is accepting scholarship applications from high school seniors, continuing students and spouses. For more information, contact Susan Rocco at [scescscholarship@googlemail.com](mailto:scescscholarship@googlemail.com). Applications must be postmarked by March 15.

• High school seniors are invited to apply for the Theta Rho International Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

2011 Col. Charles Young Memorial Scholarship. The deadline is Jan. 31.

For more information, e-mail [scholarship@thetarhoques.com](mailto:scholarship@thetarhoques.com).

• Applications for the 2011 Scholarships for Military Children program are available at all three Stuttgart commissaries. Applications must be turned in to a commissary by Feb. 22.

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

**Child find screenings available**

Educational and Developmental Intervention Services and the Department of Defense Dependents Schools are providing free screenings and developmental information for children from birth to 5 years of age on Feb. 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Army Community Service on Panzer Kaserne.

To schedule your child's appointment, call 431-2697/civ. 07031-15-2697.

**EFMP hosts autism support group**

The ACS Exceptional Family Member Program will offer a new autism support group starting Feb. 2. The support group will meet the first Wednesday of the month in ACS, Room 226, Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

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

**AUSA Job Fair**

The third annual Association of the United States Army Job Fair will be held Feb. 18-21 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Marriott Hotel in Sindelfingen.

For more information, visit [ausachapter.stuttgart@gmail.com](mailto:ausachapter.stuttgart@gmail.com).

**No overnight parking zones on Patch**

No overnight parking is allowed in Washington Square or Husky-West on Patch Barracks. This rule was created to facilitate easier plowing after snow accumulates.

**USO hosts Super Bowl party**

The United Service Orga-

nizations in USAG Stuttgart will host a Super Bowl XLV pre-game and viewing party Feb. 6 in the USO Center on Panzer Kaserne, Building 2915.

The USO will open at 10 p.m. The kickoff is at approximately 12:25 a.m. Trivia games, raffles and food will be provided.

For more information, call 431-3505/civ. 07031-15-3505.

**Singers wanted**

Singers are wanted to join the Stuttgart German-American Community Chorus. The chorus performs a variety of classical, pop and folk music.

Rehearsals are every Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the Veriensheim Chorvereinigung Münster, Elbestr. 153, Stuttgart-Münster (U-Bahn U14, Elbestrasse). Newcomers are welcome.

For more information, contact Laura Lane at civ. 07152-47146 or visit [www.sgacc.de](http://www.sgacc.de).

**Speaking competition set**

The American Legion Post 6 will host a speaking competition focused on the U.S. Constitution for high school students at the Patch High School Forum Feb. 12 at 1 p.m.

Volunteers are also needed. For more information, e-mail Douglas Clemence at [dclemence@aol.com](mailto:dclemence@aol.com).

**GAWC now accepting grant requests**

The German American Women's Club Stuttgart is now accepting applications

for grants from the proceeds of the Pfennig Bazaar.

For more information, e-mail [gawcwelfare@hotmail.com](mailto:gawcwelfare@hotmail.com). Download an application at [www.gawc-stuttgart.org](http://www.gawc-stuttgart.org).

**RSO seeks child care providers**

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Religious Support Office has paid child care service contracts available for all chapel and religious education programs on Panzer Kaserne, and Patch and Robinson Barracks.

For more information, call the RSO 431-3069/civ. 07031-15-3069.

**Family child care providers needed**

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart is seeking family child care providers looking to earn income at home, receive free training and gain opportunities for professional growth.

For more information, call 430-4047/civ. 0711-680-4047.

**ARC classes**

The American Red Cross on Panzer Kaserne will offer the following training:

• Babysitter Training/CPR class Feb. 19 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and Feb. 21 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

• Standard First Aid with CPR/AED-Adult and Child plus Infant CPR class Feb. 26 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Each class costs \$40. Register at the ARC Office, Room 314, Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne.

For more information, call the ARC at 431-2812/civ. 07031-15-2812.

**New Edge! classes open for teens**

Child, Youth and School Services Edge! classes are now available for teens on topics including fashion design, ski and snowboard tune-ups, body sculpting, rock climbing, and acting. Participants must register with CYS Services Parent Central Services.

For more information, call 430-7480/7483/civ. 0711-680-7480/7483.

**Parent Support Program classes**

The Army Community Service New Parent Support Program will host a Pregnancy Support Group Feb. 2 from 12:30-1:30 p.m.; a Fitness Group Feb. 3 from 12:30-2:30 p.m.; and a Mommy and Daddy Basic Training class Feb. 4 from noon to 5 p.m.

**Money troubles?**

Learn to refocus on savings and investments, and bring peace into your life and relationships with the Financial Peace University education series.

The USAG Stuttgart Religious Support Office will sponsor a class on Robinson Barracks beginning March 1. The class will run for 13 weeks on Tuesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the RB Annex, Building 116.

For more information, e-mail [FPUStuttgart@yahoo.com](mailto:FPUStuttgart@yahoo.com).

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

**Super Bowl safety**

- Designate a sober driver before you go out to a Super Bowl party.
- If you do not have a designated driver, do not drink and drive! Here are some alternatives:
- Call a cab or use public transportation.
- Ask a sober friend for a ride home.
- Stay where you are and sleep to sober up.
- Never let a friend drive drunk.
- The combination of alcohol and fatigue after staying up all night may have severe consequences for your drive to work the next morning. To avoid trouble, plan for alternate viewings; AFN will repeat the game.
- May the best team win!

USAG STUTTGART  
**S F E T Y** CORNER

**Sign up for news flashes and briefs: send an e-mail to [stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil](mailto:stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil), with the subject: "add me to your mailing list."**

# What's new for 2010 taxes

U.S. Army Europe Office of the Judge Advocate

**L**ike it or not, it's tax time. If you're trying to make sense of what's new for this filing season, fear not. We've already done it for you.

## Due date of return

This year, taxpayers have until April 18, instead of April 15, to file their tax returns.

Taxpayers get extra time because of the Emancipation Day holiday in the District of Columbia — even if they do not live in the District of Columbia.

Taxpayers requesting an extension will have until Oct. 17 to file their 2010 tax returns.

The Internal Revenue Service advises taxpayers impacted by the recent tax law changes that using e-file is the best way to ensure accurate tax returns and get faster refunds.

## Who must wait to file

For most taxpayers, the 2011 tax filing season starts on schedule. However, due to recent tax law changes, some people — including those who itemize deductions on Form 1040 Schedule A — will need to wait until mid- to late February to file their tax returns in order to give the IRS time to reprogram its processing systems. Those who need to wait to file their tax return include:

— Taxpayers claiming itemized deductions on Schedule A.

— Taxpayers claiming the higher education tuition and fees deduction.

— Taxpayers claiming the educator expense deduction.

The IRS will announce a specific date in the near future when it can start processing

tax returns impacted by the recent tax law changes.

In the interim, taxpayers affected by these tax law changes can start working on their tax returns, but they should not submit their returns until IRS systems are ready to process the new tax law changes.

For taxpayers who must wait before

filing, the delay affects both paper filers and electronic filers. The IRS urges taxpayers to use e-file instead of paper tax forms to minimize confusion over the recent tax law changes and ensure accurate tax returns.

## Exemptions, itemized deductions no longer phased out

Overall income limits for personal and dependency exemptions and itemized deductions do not apply.

Before 2010, taxpayers whose incomes were above certain levels lost part or all of their exemptions and part of their itemized deductions.

For taxpayers at all income levels, limitations continue to apply to particular itemized deductions, such as medical and dental expenses, certain miscellaneous itemized deductions and casualty and theft losses.

## Itemized deduction

The limit on itemized deductions expired in 2010.

## Education savings bond exclusion

An individual who redeems qualified U.S. savings bonds to pay for higher education expenses may be able to exclude interest income from gross income.

For 2010, the amount of your interest exclusion is phased out (gradually reduced) if your filing status is married filing jointly or qualifying widow(er) and your modified adjusted gross income is between \$105,100 and \$135,100. You cannot take the exclusion if your modified AGI is \$135,100 or more.

For all other filing statuses, your interest

exclusion is phased out if your modified AGI is between \$70,100 and \$85,100.

You cannot take the exclusion if your modified AGI is \$85,100 or more.

For more information, see chapter 10 in Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Education.

## Hope, American opportunity credits for 2010

For tax year 2010, the following changes have been made to the Hope and American opportunity credits:

— The Hope credit is not available for 2010.

— The American opportunity credit is available for 2010 and is unchanged from 2009.

## Expanded definition of qualified expenses for qualified tuition programs

The definition of qualified higher education expenses for tax-free distributions from a qualified tuition program is expanded to include amounts paid in 2009 or 2010 for the purchase of computer software, any computer or related peripheral equipment, fiber optic cable related to computer use, and Internet access (including related services) that are to be used by the beneficiary and the beneficiary's family during any of the years the beneficiary is enrolled at an eligible educational institution.

## Expired tax benefits

The following tax benefits have expired:

— Increased standard deduction for real estate taxes or a net disaster loss from a disaster occurring after 2009.

— Itemized deduction or increased standard deduction for state or local sales or excise taxes on the purchase of a new motor vehicle (unless you bought the vehicle in 2009 after February 16 and paid the tax in 2010).

— The exclusion from income of up to \$2,400 in unemployment compensation. All unemployment compensation you received in 2010 is generally taxable.

— Government retiree credit.

— Alternative motor vehicle credit for qualified hybrid motor vehicles bought after 2009, except cars and light trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating of 8,500 pounds or less.

— Extra \$3,000 IRA deduction for employees of bankrupt companies.

— Credit to holders of clean renewable energy bonds issued after 2009.

— Decreased estimated tax payments for certain small businesses.

— Certain tax benefits for Midwestern disaster areas, including the additional exemption amount if you provided housing for a person displaced by the Midwestern storms, tornadoes, or flooding.

## You may benefit from filing form 1040A or 1040 for 2010

Due to the following tax law changes for 2010, you may benefit from filing Form 1040A or 1040, even if you normally file Form 1040EZ:

— **Earned income credit.** You may be able to take the EIC if:

— You earned less than \$13,460 (\$18,470 if married filing jointly),

— Three or more children lived with you and you earned less than \$43,352 (\$48,362 if married filing jointly),

— Two children lived with you and you earned less than \$40,363 (\$45,373 if married filing jointly), or

— One child lived with you and you earned less than \$35,535 (\$40,545 if married filing jointly).

The maximum adjusted gross income you can have and still get the credit also has increased. You may be able to take the credit if your AGI is less than the amount in the above list that applies to you. The maximum investment income you can have and still get the credit is \$3,100.

— **First-time home buyer credit.** You generally cannot claim the credit for a home you bought after April 30, 2010.

However, you may be able to claim the credit if you entered into a written binding contract before May 1, 2010, to buy the home before July 1, 2010, and actually bought the home before October 1, 2010. Also, certain members of the armed forces and certain other taxpayers have additional time to buy a home and take the credit.

— **Adoption credit.** The maximum adoption credit has increased to \$13,170. The credit is now refundable and is claimed on Form 1040.

## IRAs

— **IRA deduction expanded.** You may be

able to take an Individual Retirement Account deduction if you were covered by a retirement plan and your 2010 modified AGI is less than \$66,000 (\$109,000 if married filing jointly or qualifying widow(er)). If your spouse was covered by a retirement plan, but you were not, you may be able to take an IRA deduction if your 2010 modified AGI is less than \$177,000.

— **More people qualify for Roth IRA conversions.** Income limits no longer apply to rollovers or conversions to Roth IRAs from other retirement plans. In the past, only taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income of \$100,000 or less were eligible, and a married person filing a separate return who lived with his or her spouse at any time during the year was barred from Roth IRA rollovers or conversions, regardless of income.

For 2010 rollovers and conversions only, half of the resulting income must be included in income in tax year 2011 and the other half in 2012, unless the taxpayer chooses to include all of it in income in 2010. In all situations, taxpayers must report any 2010 conversion on Form 8606 for tax year 2010. These rules do not apply to rollovers from another Roth IRA or from a designated Roth account.

## Alternative minimum tax exemption amount increased

The Alternative Minimum Tax exemption amount has increased to \$47,450 (\$72,450 if married filing jointly or a qualified widow(er); \$36,225 if married filing separately.)

## Repayment of first-time home buyer credit

If you claimed the first-time home buyer credit for a home you bought in 2008, you generally must begin repaying it on your 2010 return. In addition, you generally must repay any credit you claimed for 2008 or 2009 if you sold your home in 2010 or the home stopped being your main home in 2010.

## Uniformed or foreign service members, Peace Corps, employees of the intelligence community

If you or your spouse is an employee, enrolled volunteer, or volunteer leader of the Peace Corps and you sell your main home, you may be able to exclude the gain from income even if you did not live in it for two years during the five-year period ending on the date of sale. Generally, you can elect to have the five-year test period for ownership and use suspended for up to 10 years during any period you or your spouse serve outside the U.S. (on qualified official extended duty if an employee). Similar benefits apply to members of the Uniformed Services, Foreign Service or employees of the intelligence community.

## Special limitation period for retroactively excluding military retirement pay

If you retire from the armed services

based on years of service and are later given a retroactive service-connected disability rating by the Veteran Affairs, your retirement pay for the retroactive period is excluded from income up to the amount of VA disability benefits you would have been entitled to receive.

## Death of a taxpayer

If a taxpayer died before filing a return for 2010, the taxpayer's spouse or personal representative may have to file and sign a return for that taxpayer. A personal representative can be an executor, administrator or anyone who is in charge of the deceased taxpayer's property.

If the deceased taxpayer did not have to file a return but had tax withheld, a return must be filed to get a refund. The person who files the return must enter "deceased," the deceased taxpayer's name and the date of death across the top of the return. If this information is not provided, the processing of the return may be delayed.

If your spouse died in 2010 and you did not remarry in 2010, or if your spouse died in 2011 before filing a return for 2010, you can file a joint return. A joint return should show your spouse's 2010 income before death and your income for all of 2010. Enter "filing as surviving spouse" in the area where you sign the return. If someone else is the personal representative, he or she also must sign.

The surviving spouse or personal representative should promptly notify all payers of income, including financial institutions, of the taxpayer's death.

This will ensure the proper reporting of income earned by the taxpayer's estate or heirs. A deceased taxpayer's Social Security number should not be used for tax years after the year of death, except for estate tax return purposes.

## Claiming refund for deceased taxpayer

If you are filing a joint return as a surviving spouse, you only need to file the tax return to claim the refund. If you are a court-appointed representative, file the return and include a copy of the certificate that shows your appointment.

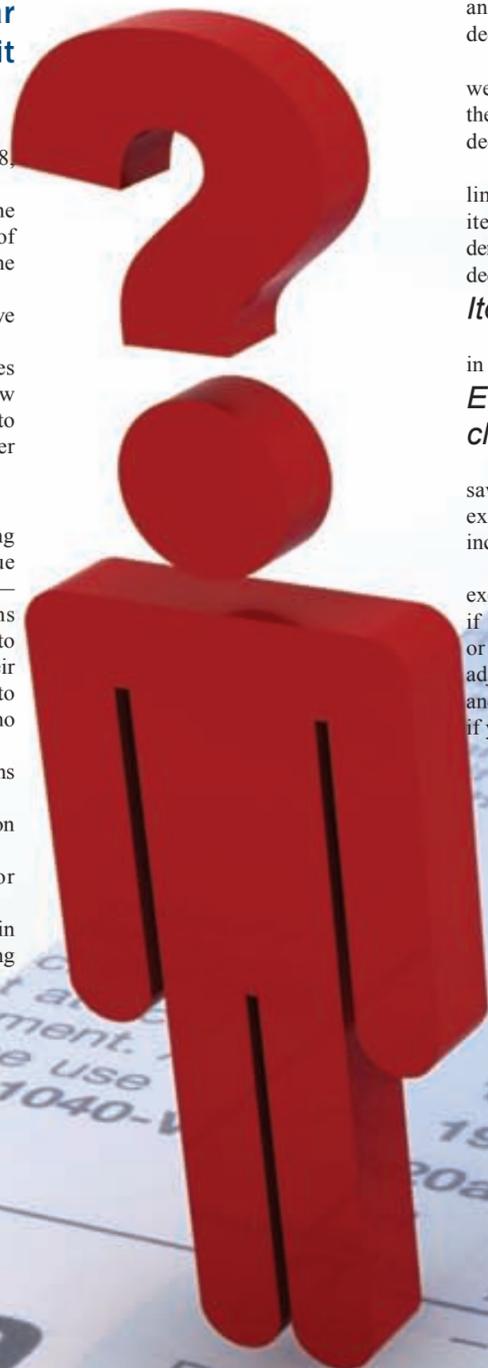
All other filers requesting the deceased taxpayer's refund must file the return and attach Form 1310.

## Name, Social Security number on tax forms must agree with Social Security card

If not, your exemption(s) and any making work pay credit and earned income credit may be disallowed, your refund may be delayed and you may not receive credit for your Social Security earnings.

If your Form W-2 shows an incorrect name or Social Security number, notify your employer or the form-issuing agent as soon as possible to make sure your earnings are credited to your social security record.

If the name or Social Security number on your social security card is incorrect, call the Social Security Administration at civ. 001-800-772-1213.



## Get free tax assistance at Stuttgart Tax Center

The Stuttgart Tax Center on Kelley Barracks has a staff of four full-time E-Fileers to help you with your tax returns. The tax center opens Jan. 31. Make your appointment today. Walk-ins are welcome.

Open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### What to bring:

- Valid government issued ID • Social Security cards for all persons listed on your return • Bank routing and account numbers • Power of Attorney if needed • Prior year return if you are a new client • All W-2 and 1099 statements • Lohnsteuerbescheinigung for wages paid by German employer • Winnings reported on forms 1099 or W-2G • All documents related to your mortgage • Complete list of expenses related to any rental property • Statements regarding dependent care expenses

If you are self employed, call the tax center for information regarding the Certificate of Coverage under the German Social Security System.

**Stuttgart Tax Center**  
Room 231, Building 3312, Kelley Barracks  
421-4588/civ. 0711-729-4588

photos.com

# Missed appointments cost millions annually

By Phil Tegtmeier

Europe Regional Medical Command  
Public Affairs Office

Nearly 5,000 missed medical appointments per month costs Army Medicine in Europe about \$5 million per year. Engaging beneficiaries and unit leaders can help reduce the number of missed appointments by half, health officials say.

In addition to reducing the cost of health care, reducing missed appointments will help Europe Regional Medical Command clinics provide beneficiaries with improved access to the health care they so richly deserve, according to Army Lt. Col. Andrew Lankowicz, ERMC Clinical Operations director. He noted that one missed appointment can impact three others: the unfilled missed appointment, the missed appointment someone could have used, and the one the person still needs for his or herself.

"We cannot expect patients to be able to make it to every single appointment they make with us, but we can work together to bring our no-show rate of 10 percent down to five," Lankowicz said.

To that end, Army community health care clinics are looking at better ways to remind people of upcoming appointments. At the same time, they are taking customer-oriented steps to bring the rates down.

Lankowicz referred to a study of no-show rates in military hospitals. He said nearly half of the study's respondents said they missed their appointment because they simply forgot they had one scheduled.

"If we provide better reminders and help patients make their appointments, we can make a great improvement," he added.

If everyone who missed an appointment because they forgot about it came in, the Europe no-show rates would go down by half, he said. At the very least, a reminder a few days before the appointment is due gives



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Nearly 5,000 missed medical appointments per month costs Army Medicine in Europe about \$5 million per year. Health officials hope to reduce missed appointments through customer-oriented steps, including additional reminders.

patients a better chance of rescheduling at a time that's more convenient to them if their plans have changed.

"We also want to give unit leaders more time to make certain Soldiers make appointments or change them if the unit mission dictates rescheduling," he added. In order to do so, clinics across Europe are improving their reports of Soldier upcoming and missed appointments to unit commanders for Soldiers in their units.

Knowing which Soldiers in a unit have medical appointments can be a useful tool in a combat unit. Asking Soldiers to leave their noncommissioned officer's telephone information when making appointments would also help, according to Sgt. 1st Class Richard Stickels, a combat medic assigned to the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment.

"Letting the platoon or first sergeant know of the appointment is not a cure-all, but it is a cheap and effective way to ensure another [person] is tracking the appointment," he said.

The goal of notifications to leaders and other initiatives is to make it easier for patients to go to appointments when they can and to call in to reschedule when they cannot.

"Each missed appointment is a missed opportunity to provide care to someone needing our services," said Col. William Novakoski, ERMC's chief medical officer and deputy commander. "Please, call your clinic as soon as you know if your plans change. By doing so, you give us an opportunity to provide services to more patients in need of our care."

## Pre-deployment screenings prevent behavioral problems

By Jerry Harben

U.S. Army Medical Command

Identifying Soldiers for behavioral health problems before they deploy, and then coordinating continuing care for them while they are overseas, can reduce suicidal thoughts, psychiatric disorders and other problems, according to a study published in the American Journal of Psychiatry.

The study was conducted with more than 20,000 Soldiers assigned to Multi-national Division-Center in Iraq during 2007 and 2008. Three brigade combat teams of the 3rd Infantry Division were screened for behavioral health issues during the pre-deployment processing at Fort Stewart, Ga. Three brigade combat teams from other installations did not receive the same screening and provided a comparison group.

Only 2.9 percent of the screened troops presented psychiatric or behavioral health disorders in the first six months of deployment, compared to 13.2 percent of the comparison group. These Soldiers also had lower rates of combat operational stress reactions (15.7 percent versus 22 percent),

expressing thoughts of suicide (0.4 percent versus 0.9 percent) and gestures toward suicide (0.1 percent versus 0.2 percent). Only 0.6 percent received duty restrictions for behavioral health reasons, and 0.1 percent were evacuated from the theater for those reasons, compared to 1.8 percent and 0.3 percent,

... the purpose of this process was to ensure that we were not deploying unsafe Soldiers ... and ... linking those who were deploying with the in-theater assets so that they can stay in the fight.

Maj. Christopher H. Warner  
then 3rd ID psychiatrist

respectively, in the comparison group.

Military behavioral health screening in past wars focused on identifying Soldiers who should not deploy. This process differed in that it also attempted to improve care for Soldiers during their deployments.

"... the purpose of this process was to ensure that we were not deploying unsafe Soldiers based on present conditions, and ensuring that we were linking those who were deploying with the in-theater assets so that they could stay in the fight," said Maj. Christopher H. Warner, then the division's staff psychiatrist and co-primary investigator for the study, along with Col. George N. Appenzeller, then division surgeon.

Soldiers in the 3rd Infantry Division who were preparing to deploy to Iraq were evaluated by primary-care health professionals and asked about behavioral health treatment, use of medications and suicidal or homicidal thoughts. Those who were identified as needing more screening were interviewed by a psychiatrist, psychologist or licensed clinical social worker. They were evaluated using Department of Defense guidelines established in 2006 to

ensure that Soldiers under treatment for behavioral health conditions were stable for deployment, and to facilitate ongoing care for those who required further treatment in the deployed environment. All care was coordinated through the unit health care providers.

"A unique aspect to this study was the requirement for BCT surgeons and the division psychiatrist to track and monitor all of these Soldiers during their deployment and coordinate in-theater care for those on medications and those who received waivers," Appenzeller said.

Of the 10,678 Soldiers who underwent the pre-deployment screening process, 819 were identified as requiring an evaluation with a behavioral health professional. After evaluation, only 48 were unable to deploy because of a serious behavioral health problem, 26 had their deployment delayed one to two months for behavioral health treatment, and all of the remaining Soldiers with behavioral-health concerns deployed with ongoing support in theater. Soldiers who needed ongoing care were seen regularly by unit medical providers. The program assisted Soldiers to complete the deployment successfully.

# Tricare Young Adult Program to open

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)

Earlier this month, the Department of Defense announced its introduction of the premium-based Tricare Young Adult Program, which extends medical coverage to eligible military family members to the age of 26.

Expected to be in place later this spring, TYAP implements the National Defense Authorization Act of fiscal 2011. Premium costs for TYAP are not yet finalized, but the NDAA specifies rates must cover the full cost of the program.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 required civilian health plans to offer coverage to adult children until age 26. Tricare previously met or exceeded key tenets of national health reform, including restrictions on annual limits, lifetime maximums, "high user" cancellations or denial of coverage for pre-existing conditions — but did not include this expanded coverage for

adult children. Dependent eligibility for Tricare previously ended at age 21 or age 23 for full-time college students.

The fiscal 2011 NDAA now gives the Defense Department the authority to offer similar benefits to young adults under Tricare.

"We've been working hard to make sure we could put Tricare Young Adult on a fast track," said Tricare Deputy Director Rear. Adm. Christine Hunter. "Fortunately for our beneficiaries concerned about health care coverage for their adult children, the law signed by the president includes opportunities for military families to elect this new premium-based plan retroactive to Jan. 1."

Beginning later this spring, qualified, unmarried dependents up to age 26 will be able to purchase Tricare coverage on a month-to-month basis — as long as they are not eligible for their own employer-sponsored health coverage.

"This program has the potential to extend Tricare coverage to several hundred thousand additional beneficiaries,"

Hunter said. "The premium allows us to provide this excellent benefit to our military families while responsibly addressing the impact of health care costs on the DOD budget."

Initially, the benefit offered will be a premium-based Tricare standard benefit. Eligible family members who receive health care between now and the date the program is fully implemented may want to purchase TYAP retroactively and should save their receipts. Premiums will have to be paid back to Jan. 1, 2011, in order to obtain reimbursement.

Adults who are no longer eligible for Tricare, but need health insurance coverage, may wish to explore the Continued Health Care Benefit Program. CHCBP is a premium-based program offering temporary transitional health coverage for 18-36 months. Coverage must be purchased within 60 days of the loss of Tricare eligibility.

For more information on TYAP and CHCBP, visit <http://www.Tricare.mil/>.

## HEALTH NOTES

### Commissary products not affected by dioxin

The Defense Commissary Agency Europe would like to reassure their customers that the meat and eggs in their commissaries are safe.

Concern was raised recently when dioxin was found in some eggs and poultry within Germany after tainted grease was inadvertently used to make animal feed.

DeCA is working closely with the European Regional Veterinary Command's Food Safety Office, The eXchange and the Defense Logistics Agency, and has initiated measures to ensure food intended for customers of the Department of Defense are not affected.

For more information about the dioxin incident in Germany, visit the European Union's official website at <http://tinyurl.com/65bpyrl>.

(This information was provided by DeCa Europe Public Affairs.)

### January is Cervical Health Awareness Month

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month.

Cervical cancer is one of the most preventable cancers in women — but they must take the necessary precautions in order to prevent it.

Though cervical cancer once was one of the most common causes of cancer deaths for American women, that death rate declined by almost 70 percent between 1955 and 1992, due to the increased use of the Pap test, the screening procedure that can find changes in the cervix before cancer develops. The Pap test can also find cervical cancer early, while it is in its most curable stage.

A vaccine is available for females ages 9 to 26 that protects against two types of HPV infection that cause cervical cancer.

For more information, talk to your health care provider, or visit [www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov) or [www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical).

(This information was provided by the Heidelberg Medical Department Activity Public Affairs Office.)

## Flu, Norovirus active this winter

Hand washing, good personal hygiene help stop spread

Europe Regional Medical Command  
Public Affairs Office

Some familiar viruses are active in Europe this winter, and medical officials are encouraging preventive measures to help stop their spread.

Norovirus, H1N1 influenza and other influenza-like illnesses are getting attention in host nation civilian and U.S. military communities.

"It is common to see viral activity during winter months, so people should not be alarmed. But we do encourage prevention and vaccination to slow the spread of these viruses," said Col. Evelyn Barraza, preventive medicine consultant for the Europe Regional Medical Command.

The ERM Force Health Protection office reports that as of Dec. 28, 2010, 98 percent of active duty Army personnel in U.S. Army Europe have received seasonal flu vaccine. Though mandatory for military personnel, seasonal flu vaccine — which this year helps prevent H1N1 and two other flu strains — is optional for most family members and other beneficiaries. This school year, the seasonal flu vaccine was added to the list of required immunizations for students enrolled in the Department of Defense Schools in Europe, significantly increasing the number of vaccinated beneficiaries in military communities.

"Prevention makes a difference. It is not too late to get a seasonal flu vaccine," Barraza said. "Unfortunately, there is no vaccine for Norovirus, so following basic preventive measures, especially hand hygiene, becomes even more important."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention characterizes Norovirus as a highly contagious "stomach bug" that can spread rapidly, particularly in settings such as offices, schools and day care centers. It can cause stomach and intestinal inflammation, diarrhea, vomiting and stomach pain.

H1N1 influenza, now considered as one of the "sea-



photos.com

sonal flu" viruses, and other influenza-like illnesses are also on the rise this winter in both the U.S. and Europe, according to Barraza.

To help prevent the spread of viruses:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you sneeze or cough. If a tissue is not available, then sneeze or cough into your sleeve or elbow — not your hand.
- Practice proper hand hygiene. Wash hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer/gel.
- Try to avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth as germs spread this way.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Do not prepare food for others while ill, and clean contaminated surfaces often.

For more information, visit the ERM website at <http://ermc.amedd.army.mil>.

# Explore Stuttgart's cultural heart: the opera house

By Carola Meusel

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

A night at the Stuttgart State Opera House is more than an evening filled with music in an elegant setting: It is a place where history, dance and culture meet.

Its history dates back to 1912, when the newly constructed Königliches Hoftheater (Royal Court Theater) was officially opened as a "double-theater," with a "Grosse Haus" (opera) and "Kleine Haus" (theater). During the 1930s, Stuttgart's theater officially became the Württembergische Staatstheater (State Theater).

The State Theater House was completely destroyed by bombs in World War II, but the Opera House was one of a handful of buildings left intact.

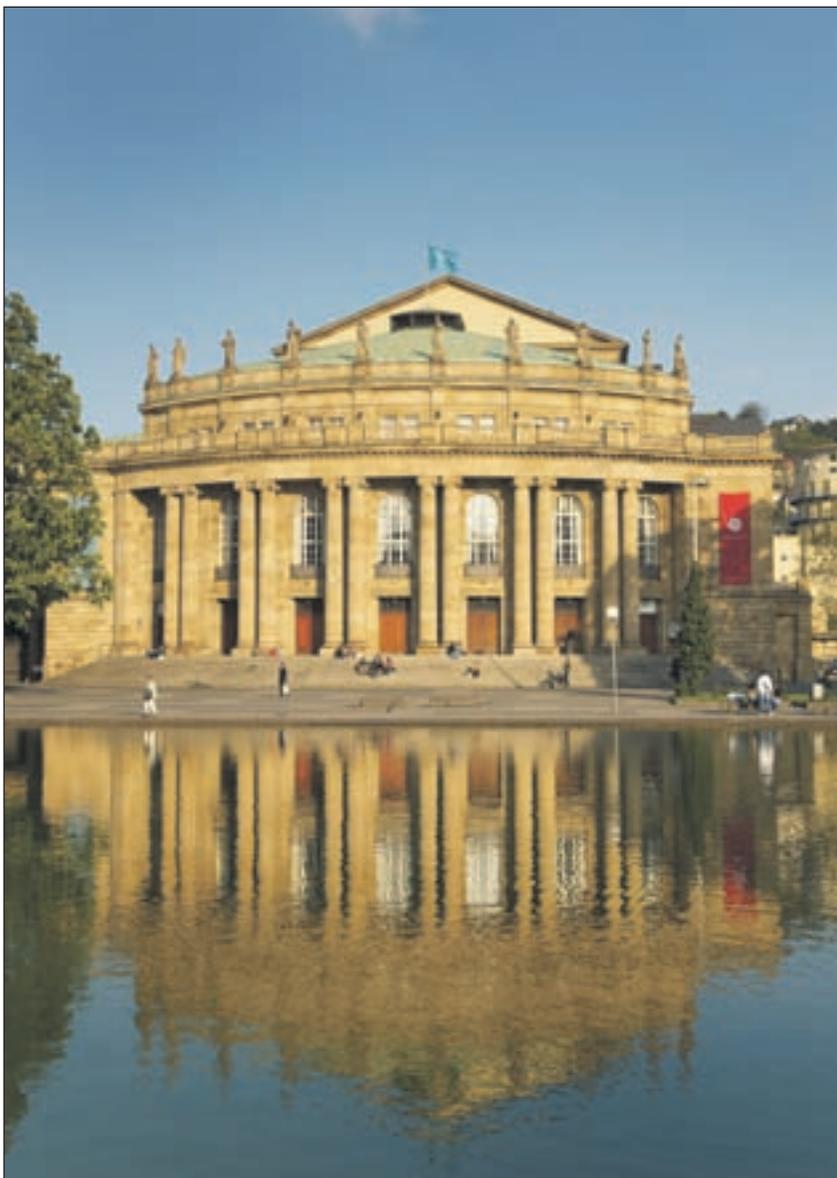
On Sept. 6, 1946, U.S. Secretary of State James F. Byrnes delivered his famous "Speech of Hope," a promise from the U.S. Forces to rebuild Germany and not divide the country economically, at Stuttgart's Opera House. Today, a plaque in the main foyer of the building commemorates this historic event.

The U.S. Forces assigned the former artistic director of the State Theater to start rebuilding the Theater House.

Now, the theater has three distinct sections: the opera, the theater and the Stuttgart Ballet. With all of the sections, it is considered one of Europe's largest theater houses, according to Birgit Meyer, spokesperson for the State Opera House.

The State Opera is also one of the most popular in Europe, she added.

From now until April, the State Opera features world famous productions



Martin Sigmund

*Stuttgart's State Opera House in downtown Stuttgart, with its classical columns, is considered one of the most popular opera houses in Europe. The current program features Georges Bizet's "Carmen," Gaetano Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor" and Tchaikowski's "Eugen Onegin."*

including Georges Bizet's "Carmen," Gaetano Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor" and Tchaikowski's "Eugen Onegin."

Most productions are accompanied by the State Orchestra and the State Opera Choir. The orchestra was established 400 years ago and was named "Orchestra of the Year" in 2002.

The choir is known as one of the most popular opera choirs in European music theater and earned the title of "Opera Choir of the Year" seven times, and the Opera House was named "Opera

House of the Year" six times.

"The theatrical setup, the music and the opera singers are simply impressive," said Rolf Huhnke, from Stuttgart, who attends the State Opera frequently.

Huhnke said he was swept away by the music. Between the musicians and the opera hall's setup, the sounds fill the theater to the rafters.

"Personally, I am a big fan of Italian operas," he added. "Therefore, I really liked Donizetti's 'Lucia di Lammermoor.'"

The main character of this production is Lucia. She is caught between love, revenge, freedom and the social conventions dictated by her family.

"It is a really dramatic story. The audience is able to feel the passion on stage simply by the music and the vocals," Huhnke said.

Opera fans can learn more about the Stuttgart Opera's productions, rehearsals and costume making, as well the role of the stage directors, singers and actors, in a new documentary, "Die Singende Stadt" (The Singing City), now playing in a local movie theater.

The documentary is partially in English and will run at the Atelier am Bollwerk Movie Theater in downtown Stuttgart throughout January and February daily at 5 p.m.

While the documentary illustrates how the inner workings of the opera, opera lovers can only take in the atmosphere of the Stuttgart opera by visiting it.

Meyer, the Opera House spokesperson, recommends visiting the State Opera House for a guided tour to learn more about its history and see the backstage area.

"Visitors can learn a lot about the technique, stage design and settings, costume making and all the studios that support the productions with their work and expertise," she said.

Opera tickets range from €8-115, depending on the seats guests choose. The lower priced tickets provide a way for visitors of all economic standings the opportunity to see a production.

"It is really important for us to offer opera tickets, which have the same price as a ticket to the movie theater," Meyer said. "Everybody should be able to visit the State Opera House to enjoy our productions."

*For more information in English on the Stuttgart Opera House and its program, visit [www.staatstheater.stuttgart.de/oper/english/spielplan](http://www.staatstheater.stuttgart.de/oper/english/spielplan). Tickets can be purchased by calling 0711- 20-2090. For guided tours in English, call Thomas Sonner at civ. 0711-203-2644.*

*For more information on the Singing City documentary, visit [www.staatstheater.stuttgart.de/oper/english](http://www.staatstheater.stuttgart.de/oper/english).*

**The theatrical setup, the music and the opera singers are simply impressive.**

**Rolf Huhnke**

Stuttgart State Opera-goer

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## What's happening in FMWR

### Superbowl parties

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host several Superbowl parties Feb. 6. They include:

- The Backlot Bar in Patch Community Club at 8 p.m.
- Kelley Club at 9 p.m.
- BOSS Lounge in Building 2331 on Patch Barracks at 10:30 p.m.

### Community yard sale

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host a community yard sale Feb. 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Patch Community Club. Sellers must reserve a spot in advance online at [www.stuttgartmwr.com](http://www.stuttgartmwr.com).

### 'Spamalot' opens at Kelley Theatre

The Stuttgart Entertainment Branch presents Monty Python's "Spamalot:" "a new musical lovingly ripped off from the motion picture, Monty Python and the Holy Grail."

Performances in the Kelley Theatre are set for Feb. 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26, and March 4

and 5 at 7:30 p.m., and Feb. 13, 20 and 27, and March 6 at 3 p.m. The show is rated PG for mild language and innuendo.

To make a reservation, visit [www.stuttgartmwr.com](http://www.stuttgartmwr.com).

### Audition for 'Rumors'

The Stuttgart Entertainment Branch is seeking five men and five women to audition for "Rumors," a farce with murder and mayhem. The production is rated PG for language.

A pre-audition workshop will be held Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Kelley Theatre. Auditions will be held Feb. 15-16 at 7 p.m.

For more information, call the theatre office at 421-3258/civ. 0711-729-3258.

### Crafts Superbowl Sale

The Patch Arts and Crafts Center Superbowl Sale will be held Feb 6 from 1-6 p.m. Select items will be 35-50 percent off. For more information, call 430-5270/civ. 0711-680-5270.

For MWR updates, e-mail [mwrmarketing@eur.army.mil](mailto:mwrmarketing@eur.army.mil).

[www.texasoundguy.com](http://www.texasoundguy.com)



## Coming to Patch Theater

**Jan. 27** — Morning Glory (PG-13) 6 p.m.

**Jan. 28** — No Strings Attached (R) 6 p.m., Unstoppable (PG-13) 9 p.m.

**Jan. 29** — Night at the Museum 2: Battle of the Smithsonian (PG) 4 p.m., No Strings Attached (R) 7 p.m., Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (PG-13) 9 p.m.

**Jan. 30** — Night at the Museum 2: Battle of the Smithsonian (PG) 2 p.m., Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (PG-13) 4 p.m., No Strings Attached (R) 7 p.m.

**Jan. 31** — No Strings Attached (R) 6 p.m.

**Feb. 1** — Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (PG-13) 6 p.m.

**Feb. 2** — Unstoppable (PG-13) 6 p.m.

**Feb. 3** — Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (PG-13) 6 p.m.

**Feb. 4** — The Rite (PG-13) 6 p.m.

**Feb. 5** — Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) 4 p.m., The Rite (PG-13) 7 p.m., Burlesque (PG-13) 9 p.m.

**Feb. 6** — Hannah Montana: The Movie (PG) 2 p.m., The Rite (PG-



Warner Bros. Pictures

13) 4 p.m., The Next Three Days (PG-13) 7 p.m.

**Feb. 7** — The Rite (PG-13) 6 p.m.

**Feb. 8** — The Next Three Days (PG-13) 6 p.m.

**Feb. 9** — Burlesque (PG-13) 6 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.stuttgart.army.mil](http://www.stuttgart.army.mil) and click on "Patch Movies."

## Family & MWR Featured Events

[www.stuttgartmwr.com](http://www.stuttgartmwr.com)



### XLV SUPER BOWL

#### WIN A FLAT SCREEN TV!

Enjoy the Super Bowl and a chance to win a flat screen TV and other prizes, February 6. Patch Community Club (The Backlot Bar)

For more information call: DSN 430 5433, CIV 0711 680 5433

#### SUPER BOWL PARTIES

Watch NFL at it's best with Family and MWR. February 6  
8 p.m. Patch Community Club, 9 p.m. Kelley Club  
10:30 p.m. BOSS Lounge

Call each location for food specials:  
Kelley Club: DSN 421 4660, CIV 0711 729 4660, 0711 720 70 694  
BOSS: 0174 248 9906



### YOUTH CLASSES

#### theEDGE!

Choose from a variety of classes offered by CYS Services theEDGE! program in February. Ages: 8 - 18

#### Adventure EDGE!

- Rock Climbing
- Art EDGE!
- Fashion Design
- Introduction to Acting
- Theatre Choreography

Contact Parent Central Services (CYS Services) at: DSN 421 3152, CIV 0711 729 3152



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#### ACS/AUSA JOB FAIR

3rd Annual ACS/AUSA International Job Fair. Largest job fair in Europe.

February 18 - 20

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Mariat Hotel in Sindelfingen

For more information call: DSN 431 3362, CIV 07031 15 3362



# 1/10 SFG (A) Soldiers honored for valor

By Maj. Jim Gregory

Special Operations Command Europe  
Public Affairs Office

Four members of the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), received awards during a ceremony held in Panzer Hall Jan. 19 for their valorous actions over the course of their last deployment to Afghanistan in support of International Security Assistance Forces Special Operations Forces and Task Force 10.

"We have the opportunity to recognize some of the valor and sacrifices these men have rendered in defense of their nation and as members of the Special Forces Regiment," said Maj. Gen. Michael S. Repass, commander of Special Operations Command Europe, during the ceremony. "All the better that their families, friends, team mates and associates are present to hear what they've done, since they most likely have never said much about it themselves."

During the ceremony, one Bronze Star Medal with valor device, two Army Commendation Medals for valor and one Purple Heart were awarded. Although all valor medals were presented for separate actions, the Special Forces Soldiers to whom they were awarded came from the same detachment.

Staff Sgt. Robert Murray, who was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for valor, humbly stated that the awards were a tribute to the team and its solid leadership.

"I did what anyone would do in that situation," he said during an interview. "I was just at the front when the shooting started."

But as the narrator read Murray's citation, it became clear that he was responsible for much more — leading a combined Afghan and Romanian contingent to a blocking position that eliminated enemy forces attempting to flank his team members during a battle, thus saving many lives.

For the Bronze Star medal recipient, Master Sgt. Joe Dickinson, the detachment's senior noncommissioned officer and operations sergeant, the ceremony offered an opportunity for his "all-star" team to be recognized.



Angeline Hoffmann

Maj. Gen. Michael Repass pins the Bronze Star Medal with valor device on the chest of Master Sgt. Joe Dickinson during a valor ceremony Jan. 19 in Panzer Hall in Böblingen.

"Though the awards are given to individuals, we view the recognition as larger than ourselves," he said. "These are about the ... team successfully accomplishing a difficult mission in one of the most volatile areas of Afghanistan. They represent team cohesiveness and what can be achieved when everything clicks."

Dickinson, who will receive a Silver Star for a separate action during a ceremony scheduled later in the year, was credited with directly exposing himself to enemy fire on multiple occasions as he led his international force on an attack against insurgents in the Kapisa Province.

At one point during the battle, Dickinson, surrounded by enemy forces, organized a patrol and

successfully led his element to safety in coordination with other friendly supporting forces.

During closing remarks, Repass gave credit to the men honored during the ceremony as he quoted General George Patton.

"Brave, but undisciplined men have no chance against the discipline and valor of other men," he said. "These men we recognize today no longer wonder how they will perform in the face of the enemy. You can now leave that pondering for the new and untested. You have answered the eternal Soldier's question."

Currently, members of 1st Battalion, 10th SFG (A) are deployed to Afghanistan in support of ISAF SOF and TF-10, where they are being tested daily.

## SOCEUR pauses to celebrate 56 years of operations

By Maj. Jim Gregory

Special Operations Command Europe  
Public Affairs Office

Even with multiple operations occurring around the world — in combat zones and international partner training situations — the service members of U.S. Special Operations Command Europe found time to pause momentarily Jan. 19 to celebrate their history.

The command celebrated 56 years of existence on the eve of its anniversary during a small observance in the Patch Chapel.

Maj. Gen. Michael Repass, SOCEUR commander, praised the men and women of the command for their extraordinary efforts in support of Special Operations personnel deployed globally, and he reminded them that they are living and creating SOCEUR

history every day.

"Your personal history and that of SOCEUR are running concurrently," Repass said. "Twenty years from now, you will look back and remember where you were and know that you have been part of something special that is now part of history."

SOCEUR's story began when U.S. European Command's commander-in-chief established Support Operations Command Europe in Paris on Jan. 22, 1955, to provide peacetime planning and operational control of special operations forces conducting unconventional warfare in the EUCOM area of responsibility.

Later in 1955, EUCOM redesignated the command as Support Operations Task Force Europe. In 1967, based on France's withdrawal from NATO, SOTFE relocated from Paris to Panzer Kaserne in Böblingen to better

facilitate interaction with EUCOM. One year later, the SOTFE relocated five miles down the road to its current location on Patch Barracks.

On May 30, 1986, it was confirmed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff as a subordinate unified command of EUCOM, and the commander assumed his current dual-hatted role as both the SOCEUR commander and the EUCOM Special Operations director.

With the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989 and the disestablishment of the Warsaw Pact in 1991, the command shifted its focus from Soviet containment to hot spots around Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

SOCEUR and its components have since planned and executed special operations during Operations Desert Storm, Provide Comfort and Provide Comfort II.

In addition, the command has

executed many operations not as publicly well-known, such as Silver Anvil in Sierra Leone and Atlas Response in Mozambique, just to name a few. It has conducted non-combatant evacuation operations in locations such as Lebanon, Sierra Leone, Chad and Liberia, as well.

In the Balkans, SOCEUR forces participated in multiple operations, including Joint Endeavor, Joint Guard and Allied Force. Currently, SOCEUR forces contribute to Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and ISAF SOF Task Forces 10, 49, 50 and 77 in Afghanistan.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Repass took part in a cake-cutting with the senior officer and NCO from each of the four services that comprise the headquarters staff. Each used cutting implements that best commemorated the spirit of the service they represent.

# Night of the Stars: *Unit-level players shine in all-star game*

By **Brittany Carlson**

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Midway through the unit-level basketball season in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation sports programmer, Matt Gilliard, wanted to showcase the season's best players.

He reintroduced "Night of the Stars," the local equivalent of the National Basketball Association's All-Star game. The event was held Jan. 21 at the Patch Fitness Center.

"It gives us something to look forward to throughout the season," Gilliard said. "It gives [the players] a chance to show their skills to other team members."

The top 20 players in the league, picked from all of the teams, were invited to face off against each other on the Blue Team (players ranked with an odd number) and the Red Team (evens).

"It gives them a chance to play together with people they wouldn't normally be playing with," Gilliard added.

During halftime, players could participate in a 3-point shot contest, where they had 35 seconds to shoot 12 3-pointers (four from each end of the baselines and the center).

One player proved to be the "star of the stars" when he won the halftime challenge and was later named game Most Valuable Player.

James Turner (Blue Team) made eight out of 12 shots in the 3-point shot competition.

But his skills during the game were even more impressive. Turner, who plays guard for the U.S. Africa Command team during the regular season, earned 29 points during the game, including seven 3-point shots.

Turner attributed his high score to his teammates' good passes during the game.

"My team[mates] — they look for me all night long," Turner said, holding both of his trophies after the game. "Without them passing [the ball] to me, I wouldn't be taking these home."

The Blue Team's strategy — getting Turner the ball — also resulted in a runaway victory for them.

The game started out slowly, but

**My team[mates] — they look for me all night long.**

**James Turner**  
*Night of the Stars MVP, 3-point shot champion*

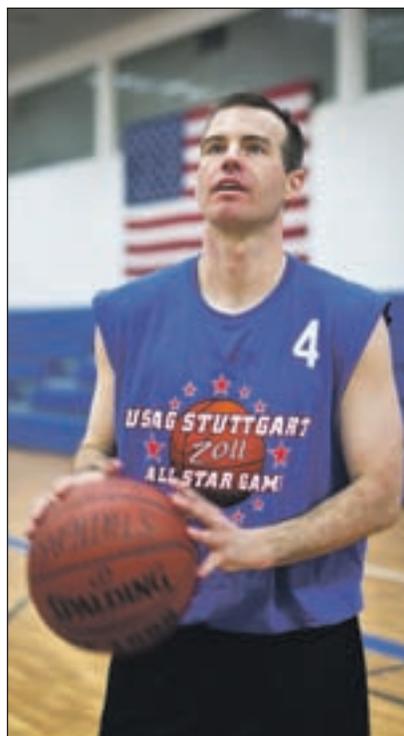


Photos by Joseph Mancy

*Chris Jackson, on the Blue Team, drives past two members of the Red Team to score during the Night of the Stars, the USAG Stuttgart all-star basketball game held Jan. 21 in the Patch Fitness Center. The Blue Team won 63-30.*



*[Above] Doug Sweeting makes a layup for the Blue Team during the Night of the Stars basketball game Jan. 21.*



*[Right] James Turner was named Night of the Stars game MVP with a high score of 29 points, and won the 3-point shot competition.*

the Blue Team started picking up speed when Chris Jackson stole the ball for a quick layup about six minutes into the half. Three steals in a row helped put the Blue Team ahead with a 35-10 score at halftime.

When play resumed, the Red Team came out yelling "Defense!" But it did little to stop the Blue Team from scoring.

With minutes left in the game, the Red Team called a time out. "We just need to cool the nets," said Gary John, a Red Team forward. "They're just getting way too hot."

The Red Team displayed a renewed intensity with a full-court press, and Johns took two steals, but the Blue Team stayed ahead, ending the game

with a final score of 63-30.

Red Team forward Mark Hennings, acting as stand-in captain, explained why his team's strategy didn't go as planned.

"We're a younger team. We were going to play transition ball and run these old guys into the ground," he said. "[But] we were lacking experience."

Despite the loss, the Red Team left the gym in good spirits. According to Red Team player Johns, the game ended up being another chance to enjoy playing basketball.

"Nobody was stressed over it," Johns said. "They made it fun."

*For more photos, visit [www.flickr.com/photos/usagstuttgart](http://www.flickr.com/photos/usagstuttgart).*

## SPORTS SHORTS

### *Gear up for CYS Services spring sports*

Registration for U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Child, Youth and School Services spring sports season, which includes soccer, baseball and softball, will run through Feb. 28.

Participants must have a physical valid through June 7.

Volunteer coaches and officials are also needed to support the CYS Services sports program.

To register or to volunteer, visit Parent Central Services in Building 2347 on Patch Barracks.

For more information, call 430-7483/7480/civ. 0711-680-7483/7480.

### *Ski with ODR*

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Outdoor Recreation will host several upcoming ski trips.

These include a trip to Lermoos, Austria, on Jan. 29; Oberstdorf/Nebelhorn, Germany, on Feb. 5; and Liechtenstein on Feb. 12.

For more information, or to sign up, call 431-2774/civ. 07031-15-2774.

### *Register for basketball tourney*

The Tournament of Champions European basketball competition is set for Feb. 18-21 in the Patch Fitness Center. The deadline to register teams is Feb. 1. Register at the Patch Fitness Center.

For more information, call 430-7136/civ. 0711-680-7136.

### *Peaceful Warriors*

Beginning Feb. 3, a free deep relaxation and yoga class for active duty service members and their spouses will be offered every Thursday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Panzer Chapel. While free child care is provided, donations are recommended.

For more information, call the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Religious Support Office at 431-3079/civ. 07031-15-3079.



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