



As the Stuttgart military community leans into 2019, the Stuttgart Citizen looks back on 2018 and some of the bigger stories. At top, a Patch Barracks parking lot is transformed into a beach club for Independence Day, the biggest community event of the year; left, motocross legend Carey Hart leads 41 assorted USAREUR motorcycle enthusiasts on a safe, cold and rainy-yet scenic-100 mile poker run; right, K1055, a primary link between Panzer Kaserne and Patch Barracks better known as “Frog Road,” was closed May 2–Sept. 20 (originally it was planned to be closed only until July, but construction challenges during the road resurfacing added a couple of extra months). See more of the year in review on pages 4, 8, 9, 12 and 13.

## Information on the traffic ban for diesel vehicles

By State Capital Stuttgart  
News Service

As of Jan. 1 2019, the Land Baden-Wuerttemberg will initiate in the environmental zone Stuttgart a year-round traffic prohibition for all vehicles with diesel motors with the emission standard 4 / IV and lower. This is one of the sanctions from the third update of the Clean Air Program. For the residents of the city of Stuttgart a transitional period shall apply until March 31 2019. Following the decisions of the Higher Administrative Court (Nov. 2018), a traffic ban from Jan. 2020 for diesel vehicles with Euro 5 / V is under preparation as a supplement to the present plan update. Whether such a traffic ban is actually necessary will be revealed by the analysis of pollution levels which will take place mid-2019.

The traffic ban for diesel vehicles is based on the high level of air pollution. Whereas fine dust pollution has considerably decreased, limits for nitrogen dioxide are still considerably exceeded. In 2017, the annual average for nitrogen dioxide was 73 micrograms per cubic metre at the measuring point “Am Neckartor”. Compared to the previous year this value was nine micrograms lower, but it is still considerably higher than the limit of 40 micrograms.

The third update of the Clean Air Program includes exceptions from the traffic ban for diesel vehicles. The City of Stuttgart is responsible

for implementing these regulations. The conditions for being granted a special permit and the documents required for an application for an exception can be had at [stuttgart.de/en/diesel-ban/special-permit](http://stuttgart.de/en/diesel-ban/special-permit).

### Why is there a traffic ban for diesel vehicles?

Stuttgart’s air is polluted by air toxins. This includes particulate matters and nitrogen dioxide. At different points in the city the limits specified by the EU are exceeded - intensified by Stuttgart’s basin-like location. The city has already implemented many measures to combat air pollution. The pollution by particulate matters has been considerably decreased. In contrast to this, the nitrogen dioxide values are still considerably higher than the threshold. Nitrogen dioxide is mainly emitted by vehicles in road traffic. Therefore the Land will introduce a traffic ban for diesel vehicles with the emission standard 4 / IV and lower from Jan. 1 2019. The prohibition is set down in the third update of the Clean Air Program for the Stuttgart region

### Who is subject to the traffic ban for diesel vehicles?

The traffic ban will be applicable from 1 January 2019 for all vehicles with diesel motors with the emission standard Euro 4 / IV and lower - all year-round within the Stuttgart environmental zone. Diesel vehicles with the emission

standard Euro 5 / V are currently exempted from the prohibition.

The Clean Air Program includes exceptions from the traffic ban for diesel vehicles. There are general exemptions—such as commercial delivery traffic, as well as special exemptions—such as for persons working on a shift basis who cannot use local public transport.

For residents of the city of Stuttgart there will be a transitional period until March 31, 2019. From April 1, 2019, they will also be subject to the traffic ban for diesel vehicles.

For all vehicles for which an exemption from the applicable sticker regulation has been issued, a special regulation shall be applicable.

## 2018 CFC ends Jan. 15

By John Reese  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The annual 2018 Combined Federal Campaign is drawing to a close, but members of the Stuttgart military community still have time to donate to any of the 7,953 different charities offered.

“This is just a friendly reminder that CFC is still ongoing for community members to give to a cause that you believe in,” said Andy Munsterman, USAG Stuttgart’s 2018 CFC community/area project manager.

Paper pledges are still accepted but cash is no longer an option as of last year. If you haven’t yet completed a CFC pledge, you can donate 24 hours a day online. The benefits of using the website are donors no longer have to fill out a paper form to be turned in or mail a check; you can do it at the office or while you are home, Munsterman explained. He encourages folks to visit the

website and find something they passionately support. “Your contribution is helping to support your cause and your community.”

CFC also accepts hands-on help pledges of volunteer time instead of donating money.

And just because the 2018 campaign is ending doesn’t mean you can’t contribute any time of the year online.

Whether you make your pledge online or on paper, be sure to check the specifics of the charity to see how effective your donation will be. Donors may remain anonymous if they wish.

### Did you know ...

Donations to CFC can be directed back into the Stuttgart military community by using the following code on your pledges by using the code **JEJAWJ**.

# Army asks, 'How's housing?'

By John Reese  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Beginning Jan. 15, the Army will conduct a worldwide survey of residents living in Army Family Housing.

If you live on post, the Army wants your candid feedback in rating your satisfaction with your home and the services provided by the USAG Stuttgart Housing Office. The Army Family Housing Resident Survey, which runs until Feb. 14, is being administered through a third party contractor. Only one survey per household will be accepted.

Residents on Panzer, Kelley, Patch and Robinson will receive an email providing the link for this online survey. Note, it is recommended to add ArmyHousingSurvey@celassociates.com to your allowed senders or address



Photo by Corinna Fritz, Energy Manager, USAG Stuttgart Directorate of Public Works

book to ensure you receive the link without delay and to prevent your antispam software from filtering the email out of your email inbox. If you don't receive the email by Jan. 18, call the Housing Office weekdays, 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. (11 a.m. Thursdays) at 431-2285/2420 or 07031-15-2285.

The survey is confidential, as the Army seeks residents straight-forward feedback about experiences in Army Family Housing. The information provided may help to shape future housing programs and services and help guide future decisions that could impact generations of Soldiers and families.



Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

## Does your Stuttgart Citizen newsstand look like this?

If so, let us know and we'll ensure your location receives copies. The Citizen can be found at AAFES, the commissaries and other locations around post.

The Citizen is the newspaper by and for members of the purple Stuttgart military community. The community is encouraged to submit photos and stories of interest. We've printed items about Scouting, travel, cultural and sporting events, and about Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coastguardsmen. If you have an announcement for the community, if you have a story to tell, contact us using the email address in the masthead (that's that block of information at the bottom of the page below, found on every page two of every issue). Request a "how-to" instructions page with tips on photography and writing a newspaper story—there's a difference between newsprint and online versions. Articles and announcements posted on [www.stuttgartcitizen.com](http://www.stuttgartcitizen.com) are promoted using the garrison's popular Facebook page and Twitter.

# Volunteers reminded to log hours in VMIS

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The Volunteer Management Information System (VMIS) tracks volunteer hours for volunteer service medals and the annual volunteer recognition ceremony. Volunteers and volunteer coordinators are reminded to approve all pending volunteer hours in VMIS tracking system before the 15th of the month.

Volunteer opportunities through Army Community Service come with many benefits, including the gaining valuable experience on par with employment experience. Volunteers can learn new skills by exploring different careers, make new friends in the Stuttgart community and develop networking opportunities to jumpstart careers, not to mention add experience to a resume or scholarship application.

Agencies such as the American Red Cross, USO, Youth Sports or



Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

**USO volunteers dish up a complimentary Thanksgiving Day feast, Nov. 22. Volunteer for the agency of your choice through ACS and [myarmyonesouce.com](http://myarmyonesouce.com).**

the Stuttgart Theatre Center are always on the lookout for new volunteers.

For additional information

on volunteer opportunities, stop by ACS in Bldg. 2915, Panzer Kaserne, or contact call 431-3362 or 07031-15-3362.



**UNITED STATES ARMY  
GARRISON STUTTGART**

**Commander**  
Col. Neal A. Corson

**Senior Enlisted Adviser**  
Command Sgt. Maj.  
Toese Tia

**Public Affairs Officer**  
Larry Reilly

**Command Information Chief**  
Kevin S. Abel

**Editor**  
John Reese

**Contributors**  
Angelika Aguilar  
Holly DeCarlo-White

**USAG STUTTGART  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**

Building 2949, Panzer Kaserne

**Army Post Office Mailing Address**  
Unit 30401, APO AE 09107

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

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

**Web:** [www.StuttgartCitizen.com](http://www.StuttgartCitizen.com)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/USAGarrisonStuttgart/](http://www.facebook.com/USAGarrisonStuttgart/)

**PUBLISHER**

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

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

**Email:** [Ads@StuttgartCitizen.com](mailto:Ads@StuttgartCitizen.com)  
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# Army units to manage their troop housing under ABMP

Story and photos by John Reese  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Barracks-dwelling Soldiers of the 52nd Signal Battalion, plus other garrison Soldiers and residents from other services, took charge of their Patch Barracks quarters from the Installation Management Command-Europe, in a brief ceremony, Dec. 13.

"The garrison has officially handed the Army Barracks Management Program over to the units," said Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Hopkins, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, USAG Stuttgart. "This handover is to the 52nd Sig. Bn."

This is the first transfer of responsibility for USAG Stuttgart. The ownership of Bldg. 2311 is now under the control of the unaccompanied Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines who reside within.

"Our garrison team will oversee how the program will continue," said Command Sgt. Maj. Toesa Tia, senior enlisted adviser, USAG Stuttgart, addressing the junior enlisted residents of Bldg. 2311, and officers and senior NCOs from different services in attendance. "There's still some kinks to work out, but for the most part, we're set in stone."

Tia said the service members were going back to basic fundamentals by managing their own living quarters.

"It's kind of like owning your battlespace, if I can articulate that in a more tactical way," Tia explained. "That's what this is all about."

Since the majority of residents are part of the 52nd Sig. Bn., two special signs in Signal orange were unveiled to give pride in ownership.

"It's a little more complicated here because we don't have singular unit control," said Capt. Robert Ryan, commander, HHC USAG Stuttgart. "Maybe half the barracks is occupied by a specific unit, so that makes it more difficult for one unit to control a specific building."

Multiple units residing in the



**Soldiers from the 52nd Sig. Bn., HHC USAG Stuttgart and other Army units, along with a few senior noncommissioned officers, unveil a sign indicating their building on Patch Barracks is now under unit control as part of the ABMP, Dec. 13.**

same building has challenges for various responsibilities, such as charge of quarters, due to varied schedules and missions of those units. One command will be responsible for the barracks so there's a "go-to" person is something is not in compliance. The only barracks building in the garrison

footprint currently occupied by a single unit is that of the 554<sup>th</sup> Military Police, Ryan said. The 52<sup>nd</sup> Signal has a wide variety of military occupational specialties working different schedules.

"USAG Stuttgart is unique with many things of that dynamic and

breakdown, plus being a purple community," Ryan said. "In this barracks, you have 52nd Signal Soldiers, HHC Soldiers, some DISA Soldiers, and one or two others. We also have some Marines, some Airmen and some Sailors who are living there."

The mix of residents could include Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers on extended assignments, adding to the complexity. Keeping common areas in order or organizing "GI" parties is another challenge.

According to U.S. Army Europe, units taking control of their barracks will establish inspection programs, train noncommissioned supply officers how to inventory and manage supplies for barracks. The intent of returning control of the barracks to the units is to increase readiness, to maintain the health and welfare of the Soldiers who live there, and to instill pride, esprit and discipline within their formations.

"Here is what ownership means to me. Company-level commanders and first sergeants will own the barracks and therefore must ensure good order and discipline is maintained within their barracks through leadership presence during and after duty hours and on weekends and holidays," wrote Lt. Gen. Christopher G. Cavoli, commander, USAREUR, in a memorandum dated Aug. 10. "They will own the building and the furniture and the responsibility to provide their Soldiers a quality and safe environment to live and to hold them accountable for damages. As such, company level commanders and 1SGs will ensure their Soldiers maintain the barracks in a clean and orderly manner, conduct facility inspections and furniture inventories, and submit work orders for needed repairs."

USAREUR and Stuttgart are well-ahead of the ABMP curve; the transfer of Bldg. 2311 met a USAREUR transfer deadline of Dec. 1, while the Army directed the transfer to be completed by the end of July 2019.

## Lantz is IMCOM-E's Soldier of the Quarter

Story and photo John Reese  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Military Policeman Spc. Joshua Lantz, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, USAG Stuttgart, was named the Installation Management Command-Europe's Soldier of the Quarter.

Lantz was named SOQ by Michael Formica, region director, IMCOM-E, in a ceremony held Dec. 13 in Wiesbaden. Garrison 1st

Sgt. Anthony Hopkins accompanied Lantz to the event.

"He studied much to achieve this," Hopkins said. "Spc. Lantz is a fine junior enlisted Soldier who represented Stuttgart, and I expect him to compete just as strong to be the IMCOM-E Soldier of the Year."

If Lantz achieves IMCOM-E Soldier of the Year, he'll go on to the National Capital Region Competition in San Antonio,

Texas, where the top Soldiers and noncommissioned officers from each of IMCOM's four regions will compete.

"He made the commandant's list at the Basic Leadership Course in Vilseck," said Capt. Robert Ryan, commander, HHC USAG Stuttgart. "He's a young Soldier, excels at physical training, and I expect great things from him. He worked hard to get to the board and he won the IMCOM-E board, and hopefully, he does well at the next level."



**Spc. Joshua Lantz, an MP assigned to HHC USAG Stuttgart, speaks with a colleague at the garrison's vehicle registration office, Jan. 7. Lantz was selected as the IMCOM-E Soldier of the Quarter, Dec. 13.**

# USO Stuttgart looks back on 2018 activities

By Sarah Kemp

Manager

USO Center-Stuttgart

USO Stuttgart had a banner year, welcoming 40,911 guests through the center's doors and 17,289 participants to its programs!

Things got off to a hopping good start in 2018 as the USO Stuttgart hosted its "Spring Eggstravaganza," filling more than 7,000 eggs for kids of all ages to enjoy. Then it was a brand-new event with the inaugural USO Stuttgart Adventure Race; held in the woods near the Panzer Kaserne firing range, teams raced through the forest to find checkpoints where they were challenged to perform a partner carry, squats, tire flips and decipher word scrambles. The team that made it back to the finish line with the most obstacles completed in the required time won a prize.

Next came the end of the school year, and USO Stuttgart was busy supporting picnics. It hosted an event at every school in the garrison, including a German-American student exchange in coordination with Albert Einstein Gymnasium, Dec. 13.

While the sun may not have shown up, fun was abundant at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual USO Sun and Fun Day hosted on Patch Barracks' Husky Field. There were carnival games, a talent show, cotton candy, snocones, hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, a Military Police obstacle course and military K-9 demonstration and more. Community members are requested to keep their fingers crossed for a sunnier day in 2019.

The 2018 CARE Fair brought another new opportunity to USO Stuttgart to host its first Family Amazing Race. Family members of all ages raced through Panzer Kaserne to complete family-friendly tasks such as reciting the Pledge of Allegiance on the garrison parade ground. After completing each station, the family who first arrived at the USO Stuttgart booth at the CARE Fair won.

While USO Stuttgart team often



Photo from USO "Fun & Sun" day by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

organizes events for family participation, they also think about our single and unaccompanied service members and those deployed. The National Day of the Deployed was celebrated by making care packages that were sent to more than 170 of our community's family and friends deployed to places such as Djibouti, Cuba, Syria and Afghanistan. The 2018 annual Single and Unaccompanied Service Members Holiday Dinner welcomed more than 80 service members who received a \$50 gift card from Service Credit Union, a homemade meal of chicken cordon bleu and a white elephant gift exchange in which USO Stuttgart bought all the gifts. The laughter lasted throughout the evening!

Spouses felt the USO love with events like Spouse Coffee Connection, Mother's and Father's Day events, Military Spouse Appreciation Day and healthy habits seminars. All of these programs occurred while continuously executing the regular favorites such as Hump Day Hot Dogs, Friday Fill Ups, and family movie nights. During 2018, USO Stuttgart hosted at least one event per month on each of garrison's four residential kasernes.

"Thanks for Giving" showed the true spirit of the giving people in this community when \$6,290 worth of groceries was donated

to families nominated by their commands to receive a free Thanksgiving meal kit, complete with the turkey. The generosity was astounding.

The year rounded out with a Holly Jolly Holiday Meal on Christmas Day in partnership with the Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center. Because of support or partnerships like those with Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Army Community Services, the American Red Cross, the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts, the VFW, the AUSA, Service Credit Union, Stuttgart Community Spouses Club and more, USO Stuttgart is able to reach more military service members and their families.

Just like in 2018, USO Stuttgart on the 3rd floor of Bldg. 2915, Panzer Kaserne, will be open with free Wi-Fi, fresh popcorn and smiling faces, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–6 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m.–2 p.m. The staff and volunteers hope to see everyone soon!

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



## Teaching the teachers to save lives

Join the Red Cross Volunteer Team and learn to teach valuable lifesaving skills to the Stuttgart military community.

The Stuttgart American Red Cross is looking for CPR-trained community members who are willing to become instructors. The office will hold an instructor course Jan. 26-27, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in basement room 007, Bldg. 2915, Panzer Kaserne. It is open to participants 18 and older who are already ACR-certified in CPR and have at least one year remaining in the community.

Interested individuals should call 431-2812 or 07031-15-2812 to sign up.

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NEWS BRIEFS



**New meeting location for Civil Air Patrol**

The Civil Air Patrol–Stuttgart Flight now meets at Stuttgart High School (Bldg. 3018), Panzer Kaserne, Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m. The CAP is for community members aged 12 and up who are interested in aviation and service to the country. Call 0170 7027412 or visit [www.stuttgart-CAP.com](http://www.stuttgart-CAP.com) or [www.gocivilairpatrol.com](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com).

**Save lives**

A two-day Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training workshop at the Swabian Special Events Center, Patch Barracks, is available, Jan. 29-30, for anyone desiring to learn suicide “first-aid” by learning how to: recognize opportunities for help; reach out and offer support; develop a safety plan that neutralizes risks; apply the “Pathway for Assisting Life;” link people with community resources.



The workshop is for all Gatekeepers (chaplains and chaplain assistants, Military Police, ASAP counselors, trial defense and legal assistance attorneys, Family Advocacy Program Workers Inspectors General, Army Emergency Relief counselors, DoDEA school counselors, emergency room medical technicians, Red Cross workers, and medical/dental health professionals). There is no charge to attend the workshop. Call 431-2699/2865 to register.

**Don't be “that guy”**

The BOSS program and ASAP have an alcohol prevention site with articles on the homepage now linked on MWR. Visit <https://thatguy.com/>.

**Winter Wonderland Crafts**

Community members (ages 8 and older must be accompanied by an adult) to visit the Patch Library and make some snowy crafts, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m., Jan. 17. Call 430-5232 or 0711-680-5232.

**Make your best shot**

There's still time to enter the IMCOM G-9 Arts and Crafts Digital Photography Contest. All photography enthusiasts, including novices, are encouraged to capture their favorite views, moments

and adventures from all across the world. Entries submitted showcase some of the most original and creative minds at work. Share your best shots for a chance to win great prizes! The deadline is Jan. 20. For a complete guide on how to login and submit your entry, email [usarmy.jbsa.imcom-hq.mbx.army-arts-auto-crafts@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.jbsa.imcom-hq.mbx.army-arts-auto-crafts@mail.mil). Visit [www.stuttgartcitizen.com](http://www.stuttgartcitizen.com) to easily click on the email address.

**Rah-Rah-Rah!**

The Denver Broncos Cheerleaders are coming to Stuttgart to show students what it takes to be a professional cheerleader at Patch Middle School, 4 – 5 p.m., Jan. 29. Take part in a free cheer and dance clinic for male and female youth ages 5 – 18, including sideline routines, hip hop, pom-pom, lyrical and jazz. Alumni football players will offer a free football clinic on Bowman Field for youth ages 7 -18. Come dressed ready to move. Youth must be ed with Parent Central Services. Sign up for one of the clinics at any CYS facility or online via Webtrac. Call 430-7480 or 0711-680-7480.

*Please see more News Briefs on p. 10.*

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# Stuttgart revamps vehicle inspection and registration

By Holly DeCarlo-White  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Following the increase of newcomers during last year's peak summer PCS season, the planned revamp of the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Vehicle Registration and Inspection offices on Panzer Kaserne comes at a good time. The renovation of the facility, which began last fall, is expected to be completed and open to the public by this May, typically the beginning of the in-and-out processing peak season.

In addition to the new digs, the Directorate of Emergency Services that oversees registration, and the 405th Army Field Support Brigade, Base Support Operations Maintenance Division that runs the inspection stations, have already begun making changes to improve service to the Stuttgart military community.

Some of the improvements that have been addressed include:

## Increasing the number of customer service work stations

The new floor plan will include a combined waiting area, and up to 10 workstations for vehicle

registration. The flow of the process from inspection to registration to shipping has been analyzed at from beginning to end to minimize wait times as much as possible and provide the customer with the tools and checklists needed for a smooth transition in or out of the Stuttgart community.

## Increase online appointment availability

In mid-October, the registration office increased the available online appointment slots, doubling its capacity for customer service. Appointments can be made online at [www.stuttgartcitizen.com/appointments](http://www.stuttgartcitizen.com/appointments) or via the USAG Stuttgart mobile app by selecting the "Appointments" button.

## Text message reminders & no-show tracking

In November, customers began receiving text reminders in addition to email notifications. Messages are sent to the personal contact information provided by the customer. Registration confirmations include a link to appointment checklists so customers can arrive prepared.

"If customers have an



Vehicle Registration on Panzer Kaserne  
photo by Bardia Khajenoori,  
USAG Public Affairs

existing appointment and would like change or cancel, they can go to their appointments account or the "Change or Cancel" link in their confirmation email to allow their timeslot to open up for someone else," said Lt. Col. Adam B. Cronkhite, director, DES.

Another tracked issue that impacts the community on a daily basis is no shows.

"No shows are a big problem in this community. Monthly, no shows account for two weeks' worth of appointment slots that other customers could have used," Cronkhite said. "Ensuring you cancel your appointment is critical."

## Walk-ins limited, no show accountability

Beginning Jan. 1, walk-in hours were limited to 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in order to maximize use of the appointment system and enforce no show accountability across the garrison.

## Early Registration Renewal Campaign

This year, between June and August, nearly 2,000 current registrations are up for renewal, with more than 750 in the month of August alone.

Drivers can renew their registration 75 days in advance of their expiration date, and early renewal does not change their original registration date. U.S. Army Europe mails notifications at the 75 day mark to vehicle owners. The garrison DES urges drivers to check their expiration and make appointments as soon as possible.

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Please note, that the following criteria (and more medical inclusion and exclusion criteria) must be met by the donor:

- US citizens, who spent cumulatively less than 5 years in Europe
- US military members, who spent less than 6 months in Europe
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- Proof of anesthesia capability in advance

If you are interested or know someone who may be interested, please contact the TICEBA Office: [office@ticeba.com](mailto:office@ticeba.com) or T +49 6221 71833-0 for further information. We will establish the contact to Dr. Joachim Beck, MD. Furthermore, a detailed medical preliminary consultation will be held to clarify your health status and open questions. Your data will be treated confidentially and will not be disclosed to third parties.

# The holiday season has ended; now begins tax season

By Capt. Robert Duffie  
Tax Center Officer in Charge  
Stuttgart Law Center

The holiday season is over, which means tax season is right around the corner, and there are big changes to the Stuttgart Tax Center this year.

The Stuttgart Tax Center

is opens on Jan. 28 and will be available to eligible individuals on a walk-in basis. The center will use a mixture of military and civilian certified tax preparers. Tax Center preparers are trained volunteers certified in Internal Revenue Service Volunteer Assistance.

The filing deadline to

submit 2018 tax returns stateside is April 15, and the overseas extended deadline is mid-June. However, it is important to note that the extension to file is not an extension to pay. If you anticipate owing money to the IRS for tax year 2018, you must file your return by April 15 to avoid penalties. Contact us if you have a question about the extended deadline.

Those who anticipate an absence during the filing season and are married planning to file a joint return will need to execute a power of attorney authorizing their spouse to sign the return on their behalf. Powers of attorney can be completed at the Stuttgart Law Center, Bldg. 3312, second floor, Kelley Barracks on a walk-in basis during normal business hours.

**Scope of Services:**

Unfortunately, there are some restrictions on the services the office is authorized to provide.

The Army Tax Program has seen several years of budget cuts that have resulted in some changes to the scope of services provided by Army Tax Centers. This year, in accordance with the U.S. Army-Europe Tax Program and IRS VITA eligibility rules, the Stuttgart Tax Center will provide first-come, first-served, walk-in tax preparation services for eligible individuals (active duty service members and dependents, DoD/DA civilians and dependents,

military retirees and dependents, and contractors with legal services privileges) with total gross incomes under \$54,000. Generally, this will exclude most service members at the rank of E-7 and above — check your W2s and 1099s to see if you qualify.

Additionally, some complicated tax situations are outside the scope of the IRS VITA and USAREUR Tax Program, including:

- Tax returns with gross income over \$54,000. Gross income is all income before exclusions, adjustments, deductions, exemptions, and credits. Note for service members: Generally, only base pay is included in gross income. Contact the Tax Center with questions on what is and isn't gross income;
- Tax returns with more than five Form 8949 capital gain entries (including gains reported on IRS Form 1099-B);
- Tax returns with more than one Schedule E rental property.
- Returns with Schedule C self-employment income (exception: military family child care providers);
- Tax returns taking the Form 1116 Foreign Tax Credit or Form 2555 Foreign Earned Income exclusion;
- Tax returns taking Form 8833 Treaty positions; and
- Tax returns using Form

2555 to exclude from U.S. taxation foreign income exempt from German taxation by the NATO SOFA and Supplementary Agreement.

Taxpayers not eligible for assistance at the Stuttgart Tax Center may self-prepare (see box) or consult with a commercial tax preparer.

**What to Bring**

In order to accurately prepare federal and state tax returns, all clients must bring:

**All tax returns:**

- W-2s: wage income
- 1099s: other income
- Bank direct deposit information (account and routing number)
- Both spouses present for joint returns OR one spouse present with a valid Power of Attorney (IRS rule)
- Original Social Security cards (IRS rule, no copies)
- Birth dates of all family members
- Affordable Care Act coverage information for all family members
- Prior year tax returns

**Additional Documents For Homeowners:**

- Mortgage interest statement (Form 1098)
- Real estate tax statement
- Mortgage insurance statement

**Additional Documents For Landlords:**

- Rental receipt information (1099-MISC)
- Property manager statement of receipts and expenses
- Mortgage interest statement (Form 1098)
- Hazard insurance information
- Prior year tax returns
- Completed draft Schedule E (available at www.irs.gov)
- Completed depreciation worksheet (available at Tax Center)

**Additional Documents For Those With Income From Self-Employment:**

- Revenue and expense information (including government subsidies)
- Completed draft Schedule C (available at www.irs.gov)

**Additional Documents For Residents of Puerto Rico:**

- Prepare/file online Puerto Rico return before IRS return may be prepared

**Taxing questions?**

The Stuttgart Tax Center is located in the Stuttgart Law Center, Bldg. 3312, second floor, Kelley Barracks. It will be open weekdays from 0900-1200, and 1300-1600. It will be closed on all U.S. federal holidays and USAREUR Training Holidays. No appointment is necessary.

This column is not intended as individual or specific legal advice. If you have specific issues or concerns, you should contact the Stuttgart Tax Center at 421-421-4588 or 0711-729-4588, or email usarmy.stuttgart.21-tsc.mbx.tax@mail.mil.

**Do-It-Yourself:**

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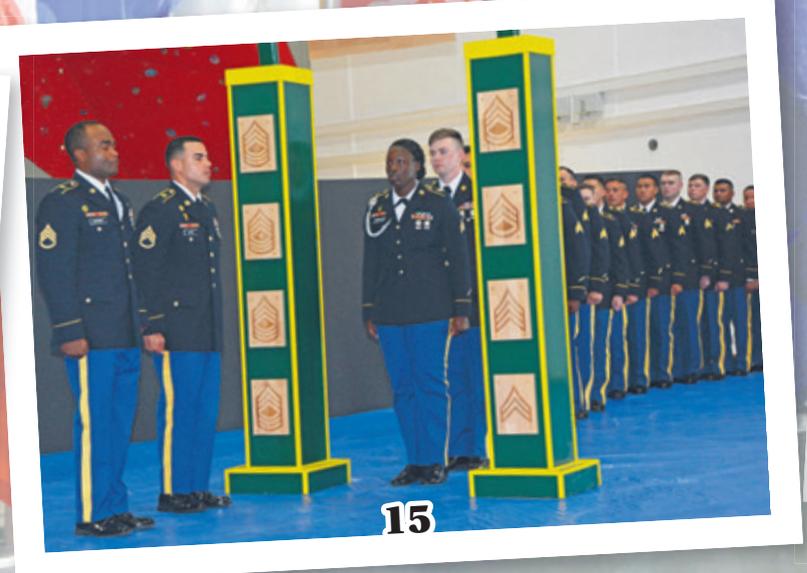
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# 2018: Year in review

Read more about 2018 at [www.stuttgartcitizen.com](http://www.stuttgartcitizen.com)





5



6



9



10



11



iew  
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14



13



12

1. 2018 began with many construction projects to improve the garrison infrastructure.
2. Sgt. Dennis Brown delivers MLK's "I Have a Dream" speech.
3. The Shamrock 5k for St. Patrick's Day begins.
4. The new garrison app makes finding info easier.
5. Command Sgt. Maj. Toesa Tia assumes responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Mario Alvarez.
6. A visit by the Frankfurt U.S. Consulate expedites services for the community.
7. The Holocaust Days of Remembrance is observed at AF-RICOM.
8. Col. Neal Corson speaks on Denim Day at the Panzer Main Exchange.
9. Firefighters evacuate simulated casualties during Stallion Shake 2018.
10. Salsa dancers add spice to Hispanic Heritage Month.
11. A Warrior Challenge competitor flips a heavy tire on Independence Day.
12. Army Master Sgt. Jacob Huckleby is inducted into the Navy Chief's Mess.
13. Motocross legend Corey Hart holds court with fellow motorcycle enthusiasts during a Good Rides poker run.
14. Runners finish the LGBT color run.
15. Four companies of MPs are inducted into the NCO Corps.
16. Old Elk answers questions during the Native American observance.
17. 1st Sgt. Anthony Hopkins navigates the impaired driver goggles challenge by ACS, the Red Cross, MEDDAC and more for Safety Day.

News Briefs continued from p. 5.

**Test it Tuesdays**

Many people see January as an opportunity for a fresh start, and safety should be at top of the list. The USAG Stuttgart Fire Department urges community members to make testing their smoke alarms at least once a month a New Year's resolution on the first Tuesday of every month. The FD also encourages everyone to make sure they have enough smoke alarms in their home and that they work. It only takes a few seconds and can save lives. Why not circle on your new calendar and tick it off when you have tested your alarms, or program your electronic diary on your mobile phone to remind you? For guidance and tips, call 431-3830 or 431-3857.

**Basket auction**

The community is invited to the Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club's annual Basket Auction will take place in the Swabian Special Events Center, Patch Barracks, March 1. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. To register, visit [www.stuttgartspouses-club.org](http://www.stuttgartspouses-club.org). Register today for this popular event.

**Need a job?**

The new on-post maintenance company Vectrus is looking to hire part-time inspectors. If interested or for questions, please email your resume to [emily.landis@vectrus.com](mailto:emily.landis@vectrus.com) or call 0152-2989-0564.

**Fleas for scratch**

Whether you are trying to make some money, clean out your closet or you just want to find a good bargain to save some cash, the community flea market is the place to be. The flea market takes place in the Patch Community Club, Patch Barracks, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Feb. 3. Shop for everything from clothes, household goods, toys, and more. For only \$10 you can sell all your unwanted items. To sign-up for the community flea market, call 431-3777 or 07031-15-3777.

**Super Bowl LIII**

Enjoy a great evening of fun while waiting for the Super Bowl to begin; come to the Galaxy Bowling & Entertainment Center, Panzer Kaserne, 10 p.m. - 4 a.m., Feb. 3. Bowling starts and the Irish Pub

open at 10 p.m. (the game begins at 12:30 a.m. local time). Watch the game on



six large TV screens in the Irish Pub and on six big screen projectors in the bowling center on. NFL prizes will be given out every half hour (12 prizes throughout the night); winners must have a US ID card and be present to win and. Call 431-2575 or 07031-15-2575.



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# What is the SUDCC Clinic?

## Substance Use Disorder Clinical Care USAG Stuttgart

According to a recent survey of the Stuttgart military community, one of the most serious challenges identified was alcohol and drug issues. The Substance Use Disorder Clinical Care (SUDCC) Clinic, previously known as the ASAP Treatment Program, provides the clinical care for substance abuse problems.

The SUDCC Clinic is located at the Patch Health Clinic on the second floor. It is ready to provide services to the community to address alcohol and drug concerns. It's mission is to provide targeted clinical care to persons with alcohol or drug abuse issues currently causing life problems.

The clinicians provide group and individual therapy. In some serious cases,

a referral to a higher level of care facility can be facilitated to ensure an appropriate level of care is provided. Services are provided to active duty members, adult military family members, retirees and their adult family members, as well as some DoD civilian personnel registered with TRICARE.

Military personnel in particular are encouraged to take advantage of the "self-referral" program which allows service members to access clinical

services to address substance use without initial command involvement. In most cases, under the self-referral, commanders are not immediately notified if the active duty members do not have a significant problem affecting their health or duties. The clinic's goal is to assist before an alcohol related incident occurs putting at risk career, family, health, etc.

Give yourself a chance to tackle this concern before losing things in life that are important to you.

### More info is a phone call away

The SUDCC clinic stands ready to provide educational briefings to all units and organizations about the clinical program and access to care. For those who would like to access care immediately, our clinicians are ready to answer all questions at the initial appointment. If you would like to seek help for alcohol or drug related concerns, please do not hesitate to make an appointment with the Behavioral Health Clinic on Patch Barracks by calling 590-1835.

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# ACS has a phenomenal year in 2018

by Tawania L. Kovacs, Division Chief  
Army Community Service

2018 was a phenomenally successful year, not only for our stellar ACS team, but for the army of volunteers, community partners and garrison agencies that assisted us in offering resiliency infusing programs and services in support of our nation's warfighters and their families.

ACS professionals diligently served more than 172K clients, offering classes, briefings, programs/events, one-on-one appointments and via social media.

Embracing the IMCOM battle cry,

"We are the Army's Home," the ACS team hosted many exciting community-wide events such as Operation

Angel Tree; Family Advocacy Program; Books on the Bus; Military Spouse Appreciation Day gala; Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony; CARE Fair; joined forces with MWR for the 4th of July; and the ACS birthday bash, all while maintaining an ICE rating of 98%. We were truly

honored this year in being recognized by the Association of the United States Army with a citation for Exceptional Service in Support of National Defense.

Many thanks for allowing ACS to serve you and your families in 2018. We look forward, with unwavering dedication, to providing comprehensive, coordinated and responsive programs and services to the Stuttgart community in 2019!



Photo by USAG Stuttgart Army Community Service  
Members of the stellar USAG Stuttgart ACS team promote Books on the Bus.



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# 2018 was another busy year

By Joel Wasco  
USAG Stuttgart Family and MWR

The mission of Stuttgart Family and MWR is “proudly serving those who serve”.

As we reflect on 2018, the Stuttgart FMWR team feels proud to have served the USAG Stuttgart community through our Army Community Service, Child &

Youth Services (CYS), Community Recreation (CRD), and Business Operations (BOD), which includes programs such as family support, childcare, travel, outdoor sports, fitness, cafes, clubs, special events and much more.

2018 was an amazing year as the entire community had the opportunity to experience some phenomenal

events by FMWR, such as the Independence Day celebration with its main performer, Rodney Atkins; an opening patriotic parade organized by CYS; an obstacle course by CRD; and many tasty treats by BOD, food trucks and private organizations.

Additional special events and new events in 2018 included the Spring Bazaar, the “Good Ride” with Carey Hart (recording artist Pink’s husband, in case you didn’t know), the C.A.R.E. Fair and the Frosty Fest. Many of these events were attended by thousands of participants in the Stuttgart militarycommunity.

The Stuttgart FMWR team looks forward to again proudly serving those who serve in 2019. We want to provide dynamic services to enhance readiness. How will we do this? Childcare that will keep your mind on the mission, fitness tools to be physically ready for any challenge, and social and recreational events to enhance your emotional, spiritual and physical readiness. Expect



Photo by Kevin Abel, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs  
**Boxers duke it out in the Panzer Fitness Center for USAG Stuttgart Family and MWR Oktoberfest Boxing Championship, Oct. 20.**

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great things in 2019, such as the upcoming Spring Bazaar, Mar. 22-24, hosted by Harriet R. Tubman OES; amazing European trips through MWR Tours to Austria, Greece, Italy, Sweden and many more countries; and another Independence Day celebration that promises to be even better, and we will continue to bring new, innovative events and programs to the garrison.

*(Editor’s note: See more event photos on USAG Stuttgart Family and MWR website.)*

### Keep up with Stuttgart FMWR

Stay up-to-date with what’s happening at Stuttgart Family and MWR through [www.stuttgart.armymwr.com](http://www.stuttgart.armymwr.com); on Facebook: FamilyandMWR; on Twitter: @StuttgartMWR; on Instagram: @StuttgartfamilyMWR; and on YouTube: StuttgartFMWR.

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**2019**

**STUTT GART**

# Faith-based women's ministries welcome Stuttgart area women in 2019

## USAG Religious Support Office

Has moving from OCONUS left you searching for friendships and a sense of belonging?

Three women's ministries, sponsored by the USAG Religious Support Office, support moms of preschoolers to grandmothers and everyone in between, with or without children.

The Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC) is an organization where women can seek God and connect with each other through Bible study, prayer, and fellowship.

"PWOC is a blessing in my life", says Hillary Baggett, who

has attended Bible studies for 11 years. "Participating presents opportunities for deep-water faith to grow, women to become braver, and to see the Lord working in their lives."

The Catholic Women of the Chapel (CWOC) is continuing in 2019 with weekly Bible studies, monthly mini-retreats and monthly evening events. The first Tuesday of every month is a mini-retreat. Childcare will be provided for Bible study and the mini-retreats.

Moms love company. If you are looking to connect with other moms of young children, then Stuttgart MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

is where you should be! MOPS is a Christian-based organization, rallying women to come together and help one another through this thing called motherhood. This year's "Find Your Fire" theme has charged MOPS to empower mothers to find and tend their God-given fire!

MOPS meets on select Wednesdays at Robinson, Patch, and Panzer. Meetings will run through May 2019. "Never let the fire go out..." Romans 12:11-13

*(Editor's note: Read the full story at [www.stuttgartcitizen.com](http://www.stuttgartcitizen.com).)*



Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

**Mothers of Preschoolers Sarah Krawczyk (Panzer MOPS), left, and Carol Espique (Patch MOPS), offer complimentary coffee and breakfast goodies to parents and students passing by the Panzer Chapel on the first day of school, Aug. 27. MOPS is a USAG-Stuttgart Religious Support Office sponsored organization.**

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Email: [stuttgartnewbeginnings@gmail.com](mailto:stuttgartnewbeginnings@gmail.com)  
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## Hit the slopes this winter with the Patch Ski Club

Story and photos by  
John Gerhart  
*Patch Ski Club*

The Patch Ski Club is a social club focused on outdoor sports and exploring all the opportunities skiing in Europe has to offer.

The members meet twice a month for club socials, to network, sign-up for trips and meet other people with common interests. It also offers trip opportunities such as ski/snowboard holidays, as well as golfing, biking, rafting and other weekends in the Alps and surrounding areas. There are over 20 trips scheduled annually. These trips also include non-skiing adventures in the spring and summer. Trips feature various packages with lessons, glacier skiing,

apre ski, biking and alpine adventures.

“My husband and I joined the ski club two years ago to meet fellow ski enthusiasts and to go to cool places,” said Joan Wollenbecker, a veteran member of the club. “The ski resorts have been fabulous, the bike trip down the Mosel river and river rafting in Munich were great, not to mention Fruhlingfest, Volksfest, and the Strasbour Wine Festival.”

The ski trips are a great way to expand your adventures in Europe, create memories with families and to make friends.

“We’ve met a wide variety of people that include people from all the commands assigned to Stuttgart,” Wollenbecker said. “It’s just been a great

club to meet new people and explore new places.”

Trip captains can answer questions and provide detailed information over email or at the club social events in Stuttgart.

“I joined ski club to spend Christmas in the Italian Alps with my family. Since then, I’ve skied some really awesome places in six different European countries with fantastic people from throughout the Stuttgart community,” said new member Robin Bruce. “I’ve enjoyed going to the festivals and meeting up for our monthly club socials. I also see the socials as a good excuse to eat dinner out with friends and family.”

If you are tired of sitting at home and want to see what winter in the Alps can really be like, come join us!



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## A ‘galaxy’ of Sunday bowling hours now for sports fans

By Holly DeCarlo-White  
*USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs*

Stuttgart community members can now bowl their hearts out seven days per week at the Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center on Panzer Kaserne.

The bowling lanes and the Irish Pub are now open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to midnight, and Sunday from noon to 10 p.m.

“The later opening time on Sundays offers a place for sports fans to gather to watch popular stateside games live on the big screen,” said Waqqas Khalid, assistant business manager of Stuttgart Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

FMWR will extend the hours even later for the annual Super Bowl watch party, Feb. 3, from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. The game, which begins at 12:30 a.m. local time, will be shown on 12 large screens throughout the pub and bowling center. Prizes will also be awarded throughout the night.

The cost per game at the bowling center is regularly priced at \$2.50 per game and \$2.50 per shoe rental. Costs vary for special events such as cosmic bowling. US Bowling Congress members also receive discounted bowling throughout the year.

Upcoming “King of the Hill” tournaments open to individual men and women, 18 years and older,

are set Jan. 12, Feb. 9 and March 16. There is an eight pin per game handicap and the cost to enter is \$35 with an opportunity to win cash prizes.

Beginner bowlers can schedule lessons by appointment with bowling center staff to improve their skills and prepare for tournaments. Bowling league information will also be available in January and the season is expected to run through April.

For more information on joining a league, upcoming events, or bowling lessons, call 431-2575 or 07031-15-2575, visit the Stuttgart MWR website or download the USAG Stuttgart mobile app and click on “Things To Do.”



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