



Photos by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Independence Day was celebrated on Patch Barracks' Husky Field as the Stuttgart military community came together, rain or shine, for the garrison's biggest event of the year. The red, white and blue day had a hometown feel with a patriotic parade, contests, carnival games, bands, beau coup assorted foods on Financial Row, Army Community Services' 53rd birthday celebration, kid-friendly play areas and a new water activities area featuring wakeboarding, patriotic music by the Schoenaich Music Club and more. Additionally, the Stuttgart Warrior Challenge obstacle course and an arm wrestling competition were part of the fun. (Because the dawn's early light of the 4th of July 2018 came hours after the July issue of The Citizen went to press, this collage of photos is from last year's event; watch for photos of this year's celebration on www.stuttgartcitizen.com.)

Stuttgart garrison says 'Willkommen Tia, Auf Wiedersehen Alvarez'



Photo by Bardia Khajenoori, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

From left, Command Sergeants Major Mariano Z. Alvarez and Toese Tia share a fist bump during the change of responsibility ceremony, June 15.

Story by John Reese
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

At a ceremony before assembled troops and distinguished guests, incoming Command Sgt. Maj. Toese Tia assumed responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Mariano Z. Alvarez as the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart senior enlisted advisor, June 15.

The ceremony took place on Washington Square, Patch Barracks, on a warm, mostly sunny Friday morning. A joint service color guard and a second color guard that included a Bundeswehr sergeant major took to the field as flags and banners waved in a gentle

breeze. The national anthems of Germany and the United States were performed in stirring acapella by Jack Lindstrom and Tess Moss-Beaman, respectively.

The change of responsibility followed as the guidon was symbolically passed from Headquarters and Headquarters Company 1st Sgt. Anthony Hopkins to Alvarez, then to garrison commander Col. Neal Corson to Tia, and back to Hopkins, completing the transfer.

"As is with all change within the military, we sadly say goodbye to Command Sgt. Maj. Alvarez as we gratefully welcome another.

1-10th SFG, garrison, celebrate Army's 243rd birthday

By John Reese

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

June is an important month for the U.S. Army, and the Stuttgart military community commemorated its founding with a birthday ball, June 9, and two cake cutting ceremonies, June 14.

The U.S. Army began as the Continental Army, June 14, 1775. It was formed by Founding Fathers to fight the Revolutionary War, more than a year before the Declaration of Independence was signed. It is the oldest and largest of America's fighting forces; today's Army includes the regular force, the Reserve and the

National Guard.

The annual Stuttgart Army Ball took place in the Sindelfingen Stadthalle. Similar events were held worldwide wherever the Army has a post.

The two cake cuttings took place on June 14, the Army's actual birthday. The first took place during a special lunch in the 1-10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) dining facility, while the second cake was cut shortly thereafter outside of the main Exchange. Both events took place on Panzer Kaserne.

At the 10th SFG(A) lunch, the task of cake cutting was assisted by supply specialist Pfc. Mahari Khalid Peoples,

1-10th SFG (A). Peoples enlisted in the Army in April, 2017.

"According to tradition, the cake is to be cut by a senior Army officer and the junior enlisted Soldier," explained Rickey A. Frazier, food program manager, 405th Army Field Support Brigade, FSB, Logistics Readiness Center-Stuttgart. "The Army's birthday lunch at the dining facility was initiated with an inspiring speech by Col. Neal A. Corson, commander, USAG Stuttgart."

Corson shared a few historical facts about the Army before he and Peoples cut the big cake, Frazier said.

"The first commanding general to be commissioned in the Army was Gen. George Washington and that his commissioning took place outside of Cambridge, Massachusetts," Frazier said, citing the garrison commander.

Outside of the Exchange, service organizations such as the USO and the American Red Cross were joined by Army Community Service with info tables set outside, adding a festive birthday atmosphere. The USO brought its cotton candy machine and kept busy spinning treats, and ACS made root beer floats to pass out to anyone in attendance. Again, Corson cut the cake, this time



Photo by Rickey A. Frazier, 405th Army Field Support Brigade
Col. Neal A. Corson, left, commander, USAG Stuttgart, watches as Pfc. Mahari Khalid Peoples, 1-10th SFG (A), finishes cutting the dining facility birthday cake after they made the traditional initial slice together.



Photo by Bardia Khajenoori, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Outside of the Panzer Main Exchange, USO staff serve up fresh cotton candy to all in attendance observing the Army's 243rd birthday.

using a saber. The cake cutting at the Exchange can be viewed on the garrison's Facebook and Flickr pages. *(Editor's note: The cake cutting at the Exchange can be viewed on the garrison's Facebook and Flickr pages.)*

Water sampling for Legionella bacteria in Stuttgart is complete

By Larry Reilly

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

During the past two months, a certified water sampling team from a German laboratory have entered 131 buildings across the Stuttgart Military Community, took a flask of water from a faucet and left.

Back at the lab, this team put the water sample through a series of tests to check for Legionella bacteria.

The team knew that Legionella bacteria is present in all water at any given time, but does the level of any of the 131 samples exceed the GFGS action limit of 100 colony-forming units per 100 milliliters, which would require the team to do a resample.

It would also require the garrison Directorate of Public Works to increase the temperature of that building's hot water and flush out the water systems in an effort to lower the levels of the legionella bacteria.

An even worse case scenario for all involved would be if the level of any of the water samples exceeded the GFGS action limit of 10,000 colony-forming units per 100 milliliters, which would not only require testing another sample, increasing the water temperature and flushing the building's water systems, it would prevent the residents of that building from using the water for showers and baths as the mist from the shower heads (if breathed in) at that level does pose a

health risk although the water is still safe to drink and cook with.

Flask after flask was tested and an occasional ping was registered indicating the Legionella bacteria level of a sample exceeded 100. Any major pings would signify a sample had exceeded 10,000, indicating someone was going without a shower.

The pings continued throughout the testing of the 131 flasks, but only 12 samples had exceeded 100. And the major pings? No one in Stuttgart will go without a shower because of Legionella bacteria.

"Overall, it is good news that only 12 water samples had a higher level than 100. We raised the hot water temperature and flushed the water

systems of each of those buildings," said Steve Raymond, director, USAG Stuttgart DPW. "Water samples of all 12 buildings is ongoing and hopefully all will show the levels are below 100."

There may always be Legionella bacteria present in our water, but according to Raymond, measures can be taken to keep the level of the bacteria at a minimum.

"The biggest concern of course is the showers, so running the water at a higher temperature for a couple of minutes before going into the shower, especially if the shower had not been used for more than three days, is a good way to help keep the Legionella bacteria level down," Raymond said.

The Citizen

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Fire departments, THW use fiery demonstrations to teach fire safety lessons

Story and photos by Larry Reilly
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Firefighters from USAG Stuttgart and Böblingen, along with medics and police, gathered in the parking lot of the Panzer Kaserne Main Exchange, June 12, and proceeded to burn up a car, torch a grease pit and tear the doors off an automobile ... all in the name of safety.

Normally conducted in October, the annual Fire Prevention Week demonstration was held in June and centered on showing and explaining how various types of fires start and the techniques used to extinguish or escape them.

“Bad weather seemed to always put a damper on the demonstrations when we held them in October, so we decided to do the demonstration in June,” said USAG-Stuttgart fire chief, Karl J. Doersam. “Of course, when we burn up a car or ignite a grease pit, we get everyone’s attention, so we wanted to take that moment to thoroughly explain how those fires can start, and most importantly, how to properly put them out or in the case of a car fire, get out of the vehicle.”

Although Doersam didn’t let observers practice getting out of a burning car, he did let them practice the technique of putting out a small, controlled grease fire.

“It was an outstanding demonstration and great learning tool for my three boys,” said Leah Kasper, who kept a close watch on her boys, Jackson, Owen and Kayden, as they learned how to use a fire extinguisher to put out a grease fire.

“It was cool putting out the fire, and I was not nervous one bit,” said four-year-old Jackson Kasper.

The community members, who ranged in number from 50 to 100 at different times throughout the three-hour demonstration, were treated to a variety of fire demonstrations, a fast working suction pump that quickly drained a pool of water, static displays

of ambulances, a hazardous material vehicle and numerous types of fire-trucks (none more popular than the extension ladder truck that sent dare-devil community members more than one hundred feet in the air).

“It was a pretty breathtaking view from way up there,” said Sydney Bullock, who along with her daughters Anne and Daley, climbed in the half-enclosed cage that was attached to the ladder. “The ladder seemed to just get higher and higher and higher; a neat experience.”

Along with the members of the German Red Cross, the garrison Safety Office and the AAFES team (host of the event), community members got a look at an international relief and assistance program when members of the Technisches Hilfswerk (THW) rolled out their technically-enhanced relief and rescue vehicle.

“THW is Germany’s Federal Ministry’s technical relief for civil protection as well as technical assistance in other countries where we provide search and rescue, water purification and distribution and power supply,” said Iris Serve, search and rescue specialist with THW. “Most of our members are volunteers and we all have to be able to speak fluently a number of different languages, as we can be deployed to another country to assist in natural disasters.”

The Böblingen Fire Department used the “Jaws of Life” to rip the door off of a car and helped a simulated trapped driver get out of his automobile, and then used teamwork to put out a car fire as a crowd of nearly 75 people watched from a distance.

“It was a good day of training for all the fire, police, and medical personnel who participated in the various demonstrations, and hopefully the community members who stopped by and watched or participated in the events learned some safety tips,” Doersam said. “Maybe we will stay with this time of the year to do our fire and safety demonstrations.”



Children and parents watch as THW volunteers demonstrate a fast-working suction pump to quickly drain a portable pool of water.



The driver’s door is removed after firefighters used the “Jaws of Life” to pry it open, rescuing the simulated vehicle accident victim.



Community members await their turn to tackle a controlled grease fire after firefighters light it up.



Firefighters deploy a hose line to attack a fully engulfed vehicle fire during the USAG Stuttgart’s fire prevention demonstration, June 12.

RB hosts first Neighborhood Watch meeting

By John Reese
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The first-ever USAG Stuttgart Neighborhood Watch program meeting took place in the Robinson Barracks Community Center, June 28.

"Our goal is to bring education and awareness to each neighborhood and receive information to help keep our communities safer," said Ruben Santiago, Chief of Police, DES. "If residents would like additional information about the Neighborhood Watch program, please let us know."

The initial meeting, and subsequent meetings to be held at all of the garrison housing areas every other month, was for housing area residents to directly discuss issues with the Directorate of Emergency Services. In addition to helping residents work directly with garrison

law enforcement to keep neighborhoods safer, the meeting covered seasonal concerns such as summer crime trends, travel safety tips and precautions to take before residents go on vacation.

"Neighborhood watches are designed to empower community members and engage with law enforcement in a proactive way. The Directorate of Emergency Services' goal is to bring education and awareness to each neighborhood and receive information to help keep the communities safer." USAG Stuttgart Neighborhood Watch Manual

The complete manual is available at www.stuttgartcitizen.com.



The manual details how a neighborhood watch program works, what to look for and what the DES needs to best investigate suspicious activity, thefts and more.

"We are excited to see the USAG Stuttgart community getting involved and proactively spearheading problem solving at all levels," Santiago said. "True policing is everyone's responsibility, not just the MPs."

In support of the new program, the USAG Stuttgart mobile app a new icon that gives residents a direct line to garrison to report non-emergency incidents to the MP desk, with the option of reporting with contact information or anonymously. To get



the informational mobile app with one-touch emergency contacts, quick appointment links, the bus schedule, things to do and more, download by visiting Google Play or iTunes and searching "USAG Stuttgart."

"This is where empowering the community becomes immediately effective and the spirit of having an active neighborhood watch truly supports our motto, "I'm glad I live here!" Santiago said.

Doing your part to save the garrison's energy bill?

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

This is an energy saving callout! Doing a little saves a lot, especially if Stuttgart community members make this a habit to their daily lifestyle. Use these simple tips to conserve energy and save Army's energy bill.

Electricity

Saving electricity is an easy habit to get into, from turning off lights in all unoccupied rooms to ensuring exterior lights are turned off during daytime; use daylight whenever possible.

Use energy saving light bulbs. The bulbs and other supplies should be available-free-at the Stuttgart Army Family Housing Self Help Store. Call the AFH customer service desk at 431-2230 or 07031-15-2230.

Unplug appliances when not in use. Items plugged in continue to use electricity even if not in use. Run your TV, VCR, PC and printer equipment over a power strip that has an on/off switch so you can turn off multiple electronics when not in use. Computer monitors use 60 watts of power per hour; monitors should be turned off when it's expected to be idle for more than 10 minutes.

On or off post, and if available, use an energy-saving settings on

major appliances. A good example of this is the washing machine. More than 90 percent of the energy use of a washing machine comes from heating the water, so wash clothes in warm or cold water as often as possible. Check your refrigerator and freezer as well. Make sure they are set to an efficient temperature.

Check on your major appliances routinely. Overheating is a sign of defects or too much energy use. Fix or replace with EnergyStar products.

Cooling homes and offices

Since this is summertime and the temperatures are comfortable-to-warm in the Stuttgart area, the most comfortable way of staying cool with air conditioning while saving energy is to keep windows closed in occupied rooms using A/C. The U.S. Department of Energy suggests setting the A/C thermostat at 78 to provide the most comfortable and energy efficient cooling; doing so will save 10 percent of energy costs. Building entrance doors are potential sources of A/C loss. Keep them closed at all times. Pulling down window exterior blinds during the day will help keep your living and working spaces cooler; put your hand against a drawn shade that's been keeping the sun out and note the heat—even on a cooler day, it can get pretty warm.

H2O

Turning off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving can save a lot of water. Rinse razors in a filled sink rather than under running water. When shampooing, turn off the water while lathering your hair.

Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects and other such waste in the trash rather than in the toilets.

In the kitchen, don't let the faucets run for washing or rinsing. Instead, fill a container with water or use the sink by clogging the drain with drain stopper. Wash all the vegetables for a meal at the same time in a pan, pot or bucket, and use a brush, washcloth, or your hand to dislodge particles of dirt rather than relying on the force of water to do the job. Once done washing veggies, reuse the water for house plants or garden.

When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. If available, fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.

Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to a remarkable 1,000 gallons a month.

Check toilets and faucets for water leakage and report to the Housing Office. A leaky faucet can waste up to 2,100 gallons of water a year. At one drip per second, you could be wasting more than 3,000 gallons of water per year. Time to fix that leak; put in a repair order with the Directorate of Public Works for small repairs.

When running a bath, plug the tub before turning the water on, and then adjust the temperature as the tub fills. Think of bathing and showering in terms of energy use. Remember, although the on-post community pays a relatively low price for potable water, it but it costs about eight times more to heat it up to where you can take a bath or shower.

Turn in your gear before you PCS



405th Army Field Support Brigade
Europe and Africa

Department of Army photo

All non-transferable Operational Camouflage Pattern (also known as multi-cam or Operation Enduring Freedom camouflage pattern) organization clothing and individual equipment (OCIE) must be turned in to the Central Issue Facility (CIF) prior to permanent change of station out of the Stuttgart military community.

No exception to policy or memorandum for record of accidental shipment will be accepted. A statement of charge (DD-362) will be processed for any missing OCIE. The DD-362 can be revised and service members can recover the cost once they in-process at the next gaining CIF. They must show proof of possession, a processed copy of their DD-362, and the CIF will provided them with a recovery document, which they would need to take to their Finance Office.

For questions about this policy, call the USAG Stuttgart CIF Accountable Officer, 405th Army Field Support Brigade—Europe and Africa, at 528-2396.



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Today Command Sgt. Maj. Tia joins our team,” Corson said, noting the wealth of experience Tia brings to the garrison. “He is an expert in garrison operations; we are overjoyed at having him join the team.”

Tia, a native of American Samoa, began life as a Soldier in 1989 and went on to serve in every enlisted leadership position during his career. He served multiple tours downrange in Iraq.

This isn’t Tia’s first tour of duty in Germany; the highly decorated member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club previously served with the 21st Theater Sustainment Command in Kaiserslautern.

In a retirement ceremony for Alvarez that took place immediately following the change of responsibility, and in keeping with the joint service environment of USAG Stuttgart, a reading of “Old Glory” was presented by Navy Master Chief Dion Dupree, senior enlisted advisor, Defense Information Systems Agency.

Alvarez began his farewell address by reciting the Army Values.

“There hasn’t been a day in 30 years that I didn’t want to come to work, because I loved my job and I enjoyed working with you,” Alvarez said.

After acknowledging the garrison commander and VIPs, Alvarez addressed his family directly, thanking them for their sacrifices over the years and promising to spend more time with them in the future. Alvarez also said that, having been a Soldier all of his adult life, he wasn’t certain what he would do next, but that he’d still be an ardent supporter of Soldiers and the Army.

“It has been an honor and a



Photo by Bardia Khajenoori, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Tess Moss-Beaman sings a heartfelt rendition of the Star Spangled Banner as Command Sgt. Maj. Mariano Z. Alvarez, Col. Neal Corson and Command Sgt. Maj. Toese Tia salute during the change of responsibility ceremony, June 15.

privilege to lead, develop, and care for the Soldiers who have stood in my formations,” Alvarez said. “From Kuwait to Iraq to Bosnia to Afghanistan and to Germany, I have been privileged to have had the responsibility, authority, and accountability for those Soldiers.”

Alvarez’ support to the Stuttgart military community went beyond his official duties, according to Corson. It was evident from events such as the annual tree lighting ceremonies, when he rode a garrison fire truck in costume as the Grinch, or fired a t-shirt cannon above the crowd on Independence Day.

“To put it plainly, he just made this community better,” Corson said.



Photo by Bardia Khajenoori, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Command Sgt. Maj. Toese Tia accepts the USAG Stuttgart guidon from garrison commander Neal Corson, completing the change of responsibility from outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Mariano Z. Alvarez.



Photos by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Command Sgt. Maj. Mariano Z. Alvarez accepts an American flag as part of his retirement ceremony.



Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

A joint service/national color guard and troops on the field salute the national anthems of Germany and the United States.



Photo by Bardia Khajenoori, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

From left, Command Sgt. Maj. Mariano Z. Alvarez, Col. Neal Corson and Command Sgt. Maj. Toese Tia share a three-way handshake.

Get your car checked out by ADAC

By John Reese
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Winter is usually the time when Stuttgart military community members are advised to get safety checks for cold weather driving, but did you know you can get your vehicle checked out-free-as part of an ongoing partnership between the garrison Safety Office and the German Automobile Club, aka ADAC?

“As part of the garrison safety campaign, ADAC conducts privately owned vehicle safety checks, free of charge,” said Anthony J. Edwards, garrison safety manager. “This is a reoccurring event.”

ADAC generally uses a mobile mini-garage to check brakes, shock absorbers, batteries and more.

“However, this do not replaces the annual POV inspection requirements for registration,” Edwards said.

If you’re registering or reregistering your POV, owners must take their cars to the inspection station on Panzer Kaserne where the vehicle will be put through an extensive safety inspection that checks the general mechanical condition of the vehicle, brakes, muffler and exhaust system, safety features and many other components of the automobile. If the car



Photo by Andrey_Popov / shutterstock.com

fails inspection, the defects will be shown and explained to the owner, who must then have the car repaired on or off base. The vehicle can be taken through inspection several times before passing, and there is not a set restriction on number of inspections, but there is no extension beyond the initial 30-day period.

The next tentative dates for ADAC visits are July 16-17 at Patch Barracks and July 18-19 at Kelley

Barracks.

“Details will be announced on posters and through community media,” Edwards said.

(Editor’s note: Some of the information for this story came from previously published stories in The Citizen.)



Getting your POV inspected

- For more information about ADAC inspections, watch for announcements on www.stuttgartcitizen.com and the garrison Facebook page, or call the Safety Office at 430-5955.
- For convenience, community members may now schedule appointments online for vehicle inspections without a CAC. Visit <https://usagstuttgartappointments.as.me/vehicleInsp>.
- For even more convenience, download the USAG Stuttgart mobile app in Google Play or iTunes by searching “USAG

Stuttgart” to schedule your inspection. Once you’ve selected an appointment, the scheduling site allows you the option to create an account that will help them track multiple appointments. Customers will receive immediate email notifications to confirm appointments upon booking with additional details about the appointment, as well as the option to cancel or reschedule up to 24 hours in advance.

All questions or concerns with vehicle inspection appointments should still be sent to 405th Army Field Support Brigade, BASOPS Maintenance Division. Visit www.afsbeurope.army.mil/MaintenanceDivision/.

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US-wide EpiPen shortage and what it means for you

By Regional Health Command-Europe
Public Affairs

Due to a US-wide shortage of epinephrine autoinjectors (EpiPen, EpiPen Jr. and generic versions), Regional Health Command Europe has authorized a six-month extension to the pharmacy label expiration date for children attending Child and Youth Services programs or Department of Defense Education Activity schools in Europe.

"We have a special agreement with CYS and DODEA regarding this pharmacy label expiration extension to meet their requirements for children's prescriptions," said Matthew Nguyen, RHCE Formulary Manager.

Nguyen emphasized that this extension does not apply if the manufacturer's expiration date has passed.

Children with epinephrine autoinjectors past the manufacturer expiration date will need to revisit their provider for a new prescription.

"For epinephrine autoinjectors kept outside a CYS or DODEA facility and stored in room temperature

conditions, such as at home or at the office, patients may retain and use the medication until the manufacturer's expiration date," Nguyen said.

Because there is a shortage, the pharmacy team recommends patients check the manufacturer's expiration date and plan ahead. Patients should begin trying to get a replacement about three months before expiration to allow for possible delays.

Army military treatment facilities must prescribe only FDA-approved medications and are not permitted to purchase European medications, Nguyen said.

If you have questions regarding your child's EpiPen, please contact your Army Military Treatment Facility pharmacy or your child's primary care manager.



Due to a US-wide shortage of epinephrine autoinjectors (EpiPen, EpiPen Jr. and generic versions), RHCE has authorized a six-month extension to the pharmacy label expiration date for children attending CYS programs or DoDEA schools in Europe.



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CID: Beware of Virtual Kidnapping Scam

U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command
News Release

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command's Computer Crime Investigative Unit (CCIU) is warning the Army community to be on the lookout for the "Virtual Kidnapping" hoax.

The scam occurs when an unsuspecting person receives a call and the caller immediately says, "I've kidnapped your kid. Send money or the kid dies," or some similar version of the call.

Although this is not a new scam, it recently happened to a member of the Army Family. It was quickly

confirmed to be a scam because the victim called their child's school and confirmed that the child was safe in class.

"Often, victims of the virtual kidnapping fraud are chosen randomly. The person who answers the telephone is the victim, and no one has been kidnapped," CID officials said. "Sometimes criminals target a block of telephone numbers in known affluent area codes. They dial sequential numbers until the call is answered by someone they can shock into believing that their child has been kidnapped. The caller's approach is forceful, well scripted and can be very convincing."

Recipients of the call report hearing screaming in the background and desperate pleas for help, a crying child and other equally frightening sounds. The caller is loud, abrasive, abrupt, and demanding.

When the "kidnapper" uses the child's name, it will cause the victim to panic and become more compliant. But keep in mind that the caller might have found the child's name on social media or the parent might have inadvertently told the caller the child's name during the course of the call.

What to Do

If you receive a phone call from someone demanding ransom for an alleged kidnap victim, consider the following:

- In most cases, the best course of action is to hang up the phone.
- If you engage the caller, don't confirm or acknowledge your loved one's name.
 - Try to slow the interaction. Request to speak with your family member directly by saying "how do I know my loved one is OK?"
- Ask questions only the alleged kidnap victim would know such as the name of a pet.
- Avoid sharing information about your-self or your family.
- Attempt to contact the "kidnapped" victim via phone, text, or social media, and request they call back from their own cell phone.
- To buy time, repeat the caller's re-quests and tell them you are writing down the demand or tell the caller you need time to get things moving.
- If you suspect a real kidnapping is taking place, immediately contact the nearest FBI office, CID office, or local law enforcement agency.



How to report

To report a felony-level crime, provide information concerning a crime, or if you are the victim of a crime, contact your local CID Office, the MPs, call 1-844-ARMY-CID (844-276-9243) or email CID at Army.CID.Crime.Tips@mail.mil.

For more information about computer security, other computer-related scams and to review previous cyber-crime alert notices and cyber-crime prevention flyers visit the Army CID website at <http://www.cid.army.mil/cciu-advisories.html>.

For more information on CID, visit www.cid.army.mil.



Don't be a victim

To avoid becoming a victim, look for these possible indicators:

- The call does not originate from the "kidnapped" person's phone.
- The caller goes to great lengths to keep you on the line so you can't make calls or verify their claims.
- Ransom money must be paid by wire, PayPal, Moneygram or similar service.
- Ransom amount quickly decreases if the parent resists.

Remember that the fraudster relies on shock, speed and fear. Criminals know they have a small window of opportunity to extract a ransom before the victim realizes the scam or authorities become involved, officials warned.

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Ask a JAG: Be careful what you POA for

By Pfc. Jonathan Longoria
Paralegal Specialist,
Legal Assistance Office
Stuttgart Legal Center

Q: I met someone online, and I think I'm in love. They want me to prove how much I love them with a "General Power of Attorney," but I'm just a specialist. What should I do?

A: The Stuttgart Legal Center frequently provides members of the USAG Stuttgart community with a very powerful legal instrument: the Power of Attorney (POA).

A POA allows you ("the principal" or "the grantor") to authorize another ("the agent" or "the attorney-in-fact") to act and conduct business on your behalf. It is a binding legal document, so there are things you should consider before granting someone a POA.

The decision to grant a POA is yours alone. Your chain of command cannot order you to create a POA for anyone, including your

spouse. You will be ultimately liable to third parties, and possibly the government, for any debt incurred by your agent under a POA.

There are two types of POAs: Special and General.

A Special POA (SPOA) grants your agent limited authority to act only in certain instances or with regard to certain matters. Because a SPOA is such a powerful document, you should only give it to a responsible, trustworthy person, and limit its authority whenever possible.

A General POA (GPOA) gives your agent extremely broad powers to act on your behalf in any situation or matter. A GPOA gives someone else the legal authority to act on your behalf for anything you could do yourself. While a GPOA can be very helpful, it can also be very dangerous. There are numerous cases where a GPOA was granted to a spouse, parent or significant other, and the powers were abused to the point that irrevocable damage was

done to the principal of a service member.

"We are required by law to advise our clients that granting a GPOA is a pretty bad idea," said Capt. Matthew N. Karchaske, Chief of Client Services, Stuttgart Legal Center. "They say you never really know someone until they empty your bank accounts and run off to Venezuela while you are asleep."

Before executing a GPOA, ask yourself a few questions: Could I accomplish my objectives with one or more SPOAs? How much can I limit the duration? Is one month enough? Maybe one week?

Make sure you grant powers to an agent/attorney-in-fact you can trust. If you lose trust in your agent/attorney-in-fact, talk

with a legal assistance attorney about revoking your GPOA. If you cannot get the original POA back from your agent/attorney-in-fact, you will need to give a copy of the revocation to any person who might have or possibly will deal with your agent.

If you will be executing a SPOA, remember to bring the appropriate identifying information: VIN, year, make, and model for vehicles, property address for real property, account information for banking transactions, etc.

For more information on how you can avoid a potentially life-shattering lapse in judgment, contact the Legal Assistance Office on Kelley Barracks at 421-4152 or 0711-7294152.

Photo by Ulf Wittrock/Shutterstock.com



Need a lawyer?
For more information on how Advance Medical Directives or a Durable Power Of Attorney might be just what you (may) need, contact the Legal Assistance Office on Kelley Barracks at 421-4152 or 0711-7294152.

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NEWS BRIEFS

**“Survey says!”**

The Community Strengths and Themes Assessment survey is to collect your thoughts on what is important to you about our installation from the perspective of wellness, readiness, resiliency and community health. Take the survey to let your voice be heard! Look for the link on www.stuttgartcitizen.com; select "USAREUR" in the "ACOM/ASCC/DRU/Other" field to find USAG Stuttgart.

Summer Camp

The Kelley, Patch, and Panzer School Age Center (SAC) summer camps are available for children who just finished 1st-5th grade. First graders must have finished first grade in June 2018. Camp hours are 6 a.m.-6 p.m., weekdays. Sign-up and only pay for the weeks you like. Weekly fees are

based on family income. Kindergarten Age Camp is at the Panzer Child Development Center, and the Patch and Kelley SACs. Children who have finished Kindergarten during the 2017 - 2018 school year are eligible. Sign-up, only pay for the weeks you need. To place yourself on the wait list for any age summer camp, go to www.militarychildcare.com. Call 430-7480/7488 or 0711-680-7480/7488.

Tech Expo coming

The Stuttgart Tech Expo, hosted by the 52d Strategic Signal Battalion, will take place 9 a.m.-1 p.m., July 24, in the Swabian Special Events Center, Patch Barracks. The expo serves as an open forum for 50-plus industry partner exhibitors to showcase their latest mission-centric technologies. It's a networking and training opportunity that is free and open to all members of the Stuttgart military community. Complimentary refreshments, food and giveaways while supplies last! To learn more, visit www.federalevents.com/stuttgart.

Become a CAP cadet

Interested in aviation and service to your country? The Civil Air Patrol-Stuttgart Flight looking for community members aged 12 and up to join them for cadet training, leadership training, learning about aerospace, academic scholarships and summer

activities. An open house will be held in the fall. Call 0170 7027412 or visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com.

Ready when fire

The Directorate of Emergency Services - Fire Department will hold the next evacuation coordinator training at 1:30 p.m., July 26, in the "Firehouse" (Bldg. # 3180 (Waldburgstraße 104, 71032 Böblingen, near Panzer Kaserne). These classes are mandatory in accordance with AR 420-1. Classes are held the last Thursday of every month. Please pre-register. Call 431-3830 or 431-3857.

Bowl with EFMP

Participants in the garrison's Exceptional Family Member Program can enjoy a special bowling night, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., at the Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center, Panzer Kaserne, the last Thursday of every month (except for this July). Call 431-3362 or 07031-15-3362.

CYS fall sports registration

Register your child for Child Youth Services fall sports by July 20. Sports include tackle football (ages 9-14), flag football (ages 7-12), soccer (ages 5-15), cross country (ages 9-15), cheerleading (ages 7-12) and volleyball (ages 9-15). Season runs Sept. 1-Nov. 15. A physical must be

valid through Nov. 15. Also, CYS SKIES registration for fun extracurricular activities for kids is open. Learn ballet, German language, gymnastics, dance and much more. Sign up online through Webtrac or at Parent Central Services. Call Parent Central Services for prices and to register at 430-7480/7483 or 0711-680-7480/7483.

Summer Reading Program

Sign-up for the Summer Reading Program at <https://patchlibrary.beanstack.org>. Registration is open until Aug. 1. Readers of all ages can join. Log your minutes for your chance to win the grand prize, a \$1000 family trip to Europa Park! Drawing will take place Aug. 2 at the Summer Reading Wrap-up Party at Patch Library. Also attend the kick-off party- see June 28. DSN 430-5232 / CIV 0711-680-5232.

Be a BOSS

The Stuttgart military community's Better Opportunities for Single Servicemembers meets at 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. on the first (Patch Arts & Crafts Center) and third (HHC USAG Stuttgart on Panzer Kaserne, next to the Panzer Commissary) Wednesdays of the month. Check with your unit BOSS representative for details.

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competition, team deathmatch, capture the flag or other challenging games. First 10 people to sign up 7 days prior get the first bag of paint for free. Cost of \$30 per person includes marker and mask rental, field fee and 500 paintballs (\$15 field fee if you bring your own equipment or \$15 ASAP/SWPC price). The next dates are July 14 and July 28, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call Outdoor Recreation at 431-2774 or 07031-15-2774.

New to the garrison?

Central Processing now has a new CAC-only link for unit/command sponsors to register incoming personnel. To use the system, the sponsor must login through the garrison SharePoint using a CAC. For information on becoming a sponsor or sponsor training for service members or spouses, call 431-3362 or 07031-15-3362.

SCSC membership now open

The Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club 2018-19 membership is now open. Become a part of monthly socials, get travel and volunteer opportunities, share camaraderie and get involved in the community, plus members get 20 percent off SCSC Thrift Shop purchases on Thursdays. Visit <https://stuttgartspousesclub.org/join-us>.

Canopy construction continues

The Panzer Kaserne main gate is experiencing temporary lane closures between through July 26. Traffic will continue to be routed behind the in-processing/German Kantine (Bldg. 2913). Motorists should use caution when approaching the gate and be prepared to follow alternate traffic patterns; occasional delays may occur. The Panzer Kaserne back gate is open 4:30- 6 p.m. weekdays for outbound traffic. The morning and early afternoon hours will resume when

school is back in session. Check the garrison Facebook page and stuttgartcitizen.com for the latest updates.

Volunteers needed for retirees

Volunteers are needed to run the Retiree Services Office and to be on the retiree council. Call 431-2010 or 07031-15-2010.

ICE is nice again

The Stuttgart Community Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) system is back up and running, according to the garrison's Plans, Analysis and Integration Office. ICE is ready to receive your comments. The ICE system is fully functional once again to all customers and users no longer need to be on a .mil network to make comments. ICE can be accessed on USAG Stuttgart mobile app.

Online appointments

Community members can now schedule appointments online for vehicle registration or inspection, the hospital tour and host nation orientation tour, with more services to be added in the near future. A CAC isn't necessary to access it. Users may also access the site through the "Appointments" section of the USAG Stuttgart mobile app. Once customers have selected their appointments, the scheduling site allows them the option to create an account that will help them track multiple appointments. Customers will receive immediate



Photo by JRJfin / shutterstock.com

email notifications to confirm appointments upon booking with additional details about the appointment, as well as the option to cancel or reschedule up to 24 hours in advance. Visit www.stuttgartcitizen.com or use the app.

About that app ...

Get the Garrison Mobile App, an informational mobile app including one-touch emergency contacts, quick appointment links, the bus schedule, things to do and more. Download the app in Google Play or iTunes, search "USAG Stuttgart."

Free marriage retreat

CREDO Europe Africa Southwest Asia invites all military personnel branch of service for a marriage enrichment retreat in the Bavarian Alps, July 13-15, at no cost.

Pre-registration is required and is on a first come, first serve basis. Space is limited. To register, call the CREDO office 626-5255 or 0039-081-565-5255 or email credo@eu.navy.mil.

Got a frog in my road

Portions of K1055 (Kreisstrasse, or district road), a.k.a. "Frog Road," will continue to be closed until mid-August in both directions between exit Sindelfingen-Ost and the Böblingen district border (Vaihingen, near Pascalstrasse) due to renewing the road surface. Traffic is being rerouted via Autobahn A81. Drivers are advised to give themselves additional time when traveling to and from Panzer Kaserne in Böblingen. Duty bus routes may be subject to change depending on delays caused by the road closure.

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Festivals in Focus: July highl



By Bardia Khajenoori

All photos by USAG Stuttgart
Public Affairs

The Stuttgart region loves its festivals, but when it comes to frequency and diversity, there's no time quite like the summer. Most local towns and villages will have their own events, including each neighborhood of Stuttgart. From music festivals to food and world culture, the options are endless.

All events detailed are free to enter unless otherwise noted. It's a good idea to bring enough cash to cover intended purchases at food and drink vendors or market stalls, as credit cards will most likely not be accepted. Also consider using public transit due to busy streets and limited nearby parking. Apps such as VVS Mobil, SSB Move, and DB Navigator offer customized door-to-door public transit routing and the ability to buy tickets on your mobile device.

Most event websites will only be offered in German; using a service like Google Translate will help to make most things roughly understandable. While many activities will, of course, also be in German, don't feel intimidated—dancing, music, fireworks, and food transcend languages. Get out and have fun!

July 6-8: Bürgerfest, Esslingen

Located along the banks of the Neckar River, the beautiful and historic city of Esslingen celebrates its citizens (not hamburgers; note the unlauted "u") in an annual three-day festival dating back to 1973.

Multiple stages throughout the city center host concerts, performances, and other entertainment, with some activities especially for children. Vendors will be on hand to offer culinary specialties, and shoppers can rummage through flea markets.

Sunday morning is highlighted by a race, the Esslinger-Zeitung-Lauf, which attracts runners from far and wide.

July 6-8: Afrika Festival, Erwin-Schoettle-Platz, Stuttgart

The annual Afrika Festival celebrates African cultures with food, fashion shows, concerts, and more. The festival's central location is a great place to enjoy the live music and dancing, African bazaar, and dishes from local restaurants.

For a schedule of activities and concerts, visit www.afrikafestival-stuttgart.de.

July 7-8: Events at Ludwigsburg Palace and Gardens

One summer highlight of the baroque palace at Ludwigsburg is the Grand Musical Fireworks Display on the evening of July 7, when the gardens are filled with thousands of lights and the sounds of classical music. A 20-minute firework display, synchronized to the music, rounds out the night.

The free Royal Children's Festival, now in its tenth year, will take place in the central courtyard of the palace on July 8 (1-6 p.m.), with a number

of activities including a royal throne on which children can take pictures.

Sand Artists will also be sculpting their art during this time, and their completed works will continue to be exhibited until August 30.

July 12-22 31st Hamburg Fish Market, Stuttgart

It doesn't take long for new residents to realize that landlocked Stuttgart isn't exactly renowned for its seafood. For ten days each July, vendors from Hamburg's famous fish market hit the road and set up in Stuttgart's Karlsplatz to help fill the void. Enjoy live music, drinks, and food until 11pm (Sunday through Wednesday) or midnight (Thursday through Saturday).

Lights in and around Stuttgart



July 13-17: Summer Street Festival, Schorndorf

Schorndorf is a charming village east of Stuttgart known primarily for being the birthplace of automobile pioneer Gottlieb Daimler. It's also home to a summer street festival with food, drinks, and outdoor entertainment nestled between the half-timbered frames of Old Town. Event map and information at schowo.de.

July 14 Festival of Lights at Killesberg Park, Stuttgart

The first "night of lights" at Killesberg was held over seventy years ago and has only been perfected since. Live music, children's games, and rides on the park's mini-railway are among the activities leading up to the musical fireworks which conclude the evening. While food and drink vendors will be available, visitors can also bring their own food and non-alcoholic beverages "in quantities that are normal for consumption" (but don't bring glass). Tickets (€12-16) and more information available at lichterfest-stuttgart.de.

July 17-22: Summer Festival of Cultures, Marktplatz Stuttgart

With more than 40 percent of

its residents coming from a foreign background, Stuttgart is one of the most diverse cities in Germany. The Summer Festival of Cultures celebrates this with six days of world music, food, shopping, and other activities in what is the largest intercultural festival in Southern Germany. More information, including concert schedules, at sommerfestival-der-kulturen.de.

July 18-22: Schlemmen am See, Böblingen

"Feast on the lake" with almost two dozen food and drink vendors and a full lineup of concerts around the lakes of the city center. A meetup of "Old Timer" cars is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday. For information including menus, concert schedules, and maps, visit schlemmenamsee.de.

July 19-21: Bohnenviertelfest (Bean Quarter Fest), Stuttgart

The "bean quarter," so named because of the many vining pole beans grown by generations of residents, is one of the oldest areas of Stuttgart. Covering the area between Charlottenplatz and Leonhardsplatz, it remains well-preserved and is home to many restaurants, cafes, and artisan shops. Its festival is traditionally held on the last weekend in July before the summer holidays of local schools and features food and drink as well as concerts, dance, and sports demonstrations.



July 19-22: Marienplatzfest, Stuttgart

The trendy area around Marienplatz becomes even more of an activity hub during the Marienplatzfest. Indie, folk, and electro pop musicians are scheduled to perform, with urban art, DJs, children's programs, and food and drink set to complete the occasion.

July 21-22 and 24: Ballet in the Park and Opera at the Lake, Schlossgarten Stuttgart

Ballet in the Park is one of the most anticipated open-air summer events, when Stuttgart's world-renowned ballet transmits a live performance onto a giant screen set up in the lawn opposite the opera house. Saturday features a selection of pieces by members of talented academies while Sunday offers the professional company. The Stuttgart Opera offers a live screening of Bellini's "The Puritans" on Tuesday night in the

same space. Visitors must bring their own blankets or small, soft seating. Glasses and cans are not permitted.

July 25-28: Henkersfest, Wilhelmsplatz, Stuttgart

The name of the "Hangman's Fest" harks back to the time Wilhelmsplatz served as the city's execution site in the Middle Ages, but it's the festival that offers a killer experience these days. The four-day event, which includes diverse selections of live music, food, and drinks, attracts thousands of visitors annually.

July 26-29: Wine and Pretzel Festival, Marktplatz Bad Cannstatt

Founded as Stuttgart's first street fest, the Wine and Pretzel Festival in Bad Cannstatt's old town offers salty pretzels, sweet wines, and every taste in between. Those who would rather pair pretzels with beer will have a number of options available, as well as other foods. Musical entertainment is also on offer.





Here's what's happening in July at USO Stuttgart

USO Stuttgart Center

Want to practice and sharpen your conversational skills in German, Spanish, French or Japanese? These casual afternoon sessions will introduce a topic idea and we will see how the conversation progresses. There will be time to ask questions and get clarification on specific problem areas as well. All experience levels welcome. 3:30 - 4 p.m. Japanese; 4:05 - 4:35 p.m. French; 4:40 - 5:10 p.m. Spanish; and 5:10 - 5:45 p.m. German. Sign up to attend July 5, 12, 19 and 26, through Eventbrite link found on USO Facebook page or website.

Got little ones at home and want to meet other parents and children?

Join the USO for Story Time and Crafts, July 10 and 24. Parents and children (up to kindergarten age) are welcome to join in story time, 10 a.m. We will read at least one children's book and create an accompanying craft. Sign up to attend through the link found on USO's Facebook page or website.

Get creative control over your DSLR camera to learn to take more creative photos. Bring your own camera to the USO Center at 6 p.m., July 10, 17, 24 and 31, to see what it can do in full manual operation.

The USO tent will be set up on Patch by the Washington Square bus stop, 7:30 a.m., July 13, for free coffee and a muffin for Fill-up Friday. Friday the 13th is also National Mac

& Cheese Day at the USO Center and a shopping trip, where you'll join the USO's German instructor as she takes you to several local shops in Vaihingen to purchase goods like a local would at a flower shop, grocery store and more and near the Schwaben Galerie, ending at a local bakery/café.

Discover your home away from home with a walking tour of Stuttgart, July 14, to learn a myriad of interesting historical and cultural facts. Reserve your spot on this free tour by stopping by the USO Center on Panzer.

Need a little Christmas, right this very minute? On July 17, 9 a.m., the gold USO van will be driving around the Stuttgart military community

giving out goodies in the morning. Later, visit the USO Center on Panzer afterwards for snacks and games.

On Wednesday, July 18 stop by the USO Center on Panzer in Building starting at 11 a.m. for free delicious , for "Hump Day Hot Dogs." Enjoy chili cheese dogs, chips and sweet tea to celebrate making it halfway through the work week Served while supplies last.

Become a USO volunteer. Register at www.volunteers.uso.org to begin the volunteer onboarding process, then attend an orientations to learn more.

Do you have a birthday in July? Come to the USO at noon, July 5, for cake and a birthday.

ARC helps search for family, friends after a disaster

American Red Cross

After a disaster, letting your family and friends know that you are safe and well can bring them great peace of mind. If you have been affected by a disaster, you can use the American Red Cross' "Safe and Well" messages page to make posts that your loved ones can view.

"This is very important, especially after a disaster—for example hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, where the local communities were without cell phone and internet coverage for

days," said Julian Coates, regional program director, ARC European Division.

Registration on the Safe and Well website is completely voluntary and you can update your entry at any time. Friends and family searching on this site for your information will need to enter your name, along with your address or phone number. The search result will show only your first name, last name, the date and time of registration and the messages you selected to tell your story. Registration information may be provided to other organizations to locate missing persons, help reunite loved ones, or provide other disaster relief services.

Search for Loved Ones

Concerned family and friends can search the list of those who have registered themselves as safe and well by clicking on the "search registrants" button. The results of a successful search will display a loved one's first name, last name and a brief message.

You cannot find out where someone is located unless the registrant chose to enter this information in the free text field of the registration page. When delivering disaster relief services, the American Red Cross is

guided by strict privacy and confidentiality policies. These guidelines limit the kinds of personal and location information collected by the Red Cross that can be made available to the public.

"The American Red Cross is committed to the privacy of each client and ensures responsible handling of personal data," Coates said.

If your family member is not listed on the site, you can continue searching the site throughout the duration of the disaster. If your loved one has not yet registered, he or she may do so upon arriving at a shelter.

Please note that some people may choose not to register. In addition to searching this website, you might try to call your loved one during off-peak hours or send them a text. Consider calling people who may know where the person is, such as neighbors, employers, and co-workers. If the disaster relief effort has gone on for several weeks, consider sending them a letter, as mail may be getting forwarded. Also, if the person uses the Internet, consider sending them an email or following up on their social media page (i.e., Facebook, Twitter), as they may have already gone online to tell their

Red Cross offers dental tech training opportunity

The American Red Cross is pleased to support the entire USAG Stuttgart community with continuing education opportunities. One of the excellent programs offered is the Dental Assistant Program, in partnership with the Stuttgart Dental Clinic on Panzer Kaserne. This program provides education and applied training to those who are interested in a career in dental assisting. In a unique blend of classroom and "chair-side" learning, program participants can expect to study dental theory and terminology, in addition to sterilization, charting, dental instruments, material and procedures and more. The program is designed for those who do not already have experience in dental assisting; candidates who complete the program will be qualified to enter a new and exciting career field!

Candidates must have a high school diploma or GED, and base access. For questions or to apply for the program, please contact the American Red Cross Stuttgart Station via phone, email, or stop by! The application deadline is Aug. 24 Call 431-2812 or 07031-152812, or email Stuttgart@RedCross.org.



Join the ARC for brunch, July 19

The American Red Cross will host a community networking brunch in the Panzer Chapel cafe, 10 a.m., July 19 for all Stuttgart military community members. Come get to know the Stuttgart community, all it has to offer and what you might be missing! Representatives from many on-base organizations will be available to answer all of your questions. Brunch will be provided.

Register yourself as "Safe and Well"

To learn more about the Safe and Well program, call the Stuttgart American Red Cross at 431-2812 or the national number at 1-800-RED-CROSS, or stop by in Bldg. 2948, Panzer Kaserne. You can also visit <https://safeandwell.communityos.org/zf/safe/add>.



story. If your loved one has a serious, pre-existing health or mental health condition, you may also initiate an Emergency Information Request by calling the Stuttgart American Red Cross Chapter.

"The American Red Cross, as an organization, considers it a privilege to have the opportunity to provide Red Cross assistance to service members and their families in their times of need," Coates said. "We also get a great deal of satisfaction working in harmony with our military and community partners on programs to improve the quality of life of the USAG Stuttgart military community."



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Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The USAG Stuttgart Fire Department, lights on and siren howling, leads the way for the school buses on the last day of the 2017-2018 school year as hundreds of cheering SES and SHS students, teachers, staff and parents wave farewell, June 14.

“School’s out for summer!”

By John Reese
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

With blue lights flashing and sirens howling from fire trucks and cop cars, garrison firefighters and Soldiers of the 554th Military Police Company gave students high-fives and a sustained round of applause during a last-day-of-school "clap-out" at Stuttgart Elementary and High Schools, June 14.

The warm send off by garrison emergency responders was accompanied by Alice Cooper's "School's Out" and other rock favorites playing

over the public address system, plus an occasional blast from the emergency responder vehicles.

"It's a very emotional day, because we've had such a good school year," said SES reading specialist Valerie Krunich, who teaches all grades. "We hate to see these kids leave. Next school year, many will return, but many also PCS."

There was a lot of hugging and a few tears as the students who ride the school buses parted company for the last time of the school year.

"I feel kind of sad, because I'm moving," said 5th grade student

Zander Waskiewicz, taking selfies together with his classmates Alexander Julanlunamendoza and William Wetherill. "I'll miss my great friends I've had in the past year."

"The year's gone by very fast and I hope to see my friends, call them and spend as much time with them as I can," Wetherill said.

When asked how he felt about it being the last day of the 2017/2018 school year, Julanlunamendoza reflected it had been a good year.

"This year has been an adventure," he said. "Every year is an adventure for everybody, and I think

this year was the best adventure for me."

As for the last day of school, 11th grader and Girl Scout Ambassador Mika Taylor said she was excited about the prospects of what she planned to do over the summer before entering her senior year, and glad the stressful weeks at the end of the school year were over. She'd studied hard for three months and confidently aced her finals, and offered encouragement to other young ladies and Girl Scouts on how to spend their summer by doing their best.



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Photo by Sabrina Wilson

RBES students joyfully accept high fives, handshakes and applause from garrison law enforcement on the last day of school at the "Clap-Out."

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"Girl power is super important," Taylor said. "I think it's important for girls to be active in their community, and to be able to show responsibility and leadership, especially in this day and age when women are given way more opportunities than before. I say to all of the girls out there, join the Girl Scouts and be a leader in the community. All girls have a chance to learn and grow, empowering women."

"The clap-out went very well today," said Dan O'Brien, Force Protection Officer for Department of Defense Education Activity, after the event. O'Brien clapped for the students along with the MPs before joining the transportation crew, the people who ensure the school buses run on time. "DoDEA just released 75,000 students for the summer break. The big thing that was shown today was the cooperation between the Stuttgart military community and DoDEA."

O'Brien indicated the members of the transportation team, adding that he and the team were the shield and the wheels for the students in support of the educators.

"With so many students, we rely on our installation partners to collaborate with us to ensure the safety and security of our children, from the time they leave their doorstep until they return home," O'Brien said.

With all of the school buses gone and the loading zone empty, the PA fell silent

and the few remaining students made their final farewells. Like the song says, "school's out for summer."

RBES students wished a safe, happy summer

Simultaneously across town, Robinson Barracks Elementary School students joyfully accepted high fives, handshakes and applause from garrison law enforcement on the last day of school at their "Clap-Out."

Military and civilian police, including the garrison's top cops Lt. Col. Adam B. Cronkhite, Director of Emergency Services, and Police Chief Ruben R. Santiago, took the time to show their care for the RBES students with applause, high fives, handshakes and hugs.

"We came out to wish the kids a happy and safe summer," Cronkhite said. "We've been

doing high-five Fridays to send them into the weekends safely and in a positive way."

(Editor's note: Special thanks to RB community member Sabrina Wilson, who provided photos and contributed to this story.)



Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs
Members of the 554th MP Co. and DoDEA security applaud departing SES and SHS students, June 14.



Photo by Sabrina Wilson
A line of Soldiers and civilian garrison law enforcement personnel wish RBES students a safe and happy summer, June 14.

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Army Chaplain Corps to observe 243 years of service



By Ch. (Col.)
James R. Boulware
USAG Stuttgart Garrison
Chaplain

Valor is a gift," Carl Sandburg once said. "Those having it never know for sure whether they have it until the test comes."

That test came on a cold night of February 3, 1943, when the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, an Army transport ship carrying 902 servicemen, merchant seamen and civilian workers, was torpedoed by German submarine U-223. Within

20 minutes, the Dorchester was swallowed up by the Atlantic's icy waters. Pandemonium ensued as men rushed in the darkness to secure a place on one of the lifeboats. Eyewitnesses testified that in the midst of the pandemonium stood four chaplains: Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed.

Amid the chaos, the four chaplains began to encourage the Soldiers, hand out life jackets and direct them to the lifeboats. When the life jackets ran out, the chaplains selflessly removed their own jackets and sacrificially handed them to four other Soldiers.

As the Dorchester sank, survivors recalled seeing the four chaplains linked arm-in-arm praying for the Soldiers.

The Bible states, "No greater love has any man than to lay down his life for a friend." John 15:13

Since July 29, 1775, the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps has been serving alongside Soldiers, nurturing the liv-

prisons, cyber and community ministries. Together with Religious Affairs Specialists (also known as Unit Ministry Teams), chaplains offer confidential counseling, religious services, moral support and advise commanders on spiritual matters.

As we look to the 243rd anniversary of the Chaplain Corps, we are reminded



Photo by Carlton W. Angell
A monument in Ann Arbor, Michigan, to the Four Chaplains.

ing, caring for the wounded and honoring our fallen. The Chaplain Corps' mission is to bring Soldiers to God and God to Soldiers.

With its motto, "Pro Deo et Patria" (for God and country), the Chaplain Corps has a unique mission of insuring that all Soldiers, service members and civilians may practice their faith under the umbrella of religious freedom. To ensure this, chaplains are imbedded in almost every type of unit, to include Special Operations, infantry, aviation, intelligence, hospitals,

of the thousands of chaplains and Religious Affairs Specialists who have faithfully served our country in times of peace and war. As the garrison chaplain, I join with all the chaplains and Religious Affairs Specialist serving in the USAG Stuttgart community to say that we are honored to be a part of this legacy. We are dedicated to our sacred calling to serve both this community and God.

As hymnodist Steve Green once wrote, "May all who come behind us find us faithful."

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Learn about the history of Patch Barracks

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs
Photos by Daniel Fitzpatrick
U.S. European Command

Take a trip through time with a walking tour of Patch Barracks this summer.

Historian Dan Fitzpatrick, U.S. European Command, will be your guide for a two-hour historical walking tour of Patch Barracks on three upcoming dates.

“As the USEUCOM historian, I conduct a monthly tour of Patch Barracks on Saturdays,” Fitzpatrick said. “There is no cost to the folks attending the tours, but non-U.S. citizens will need to be escorted onto Patch Barracks by their American friends.”

The historical tour covers the history of Patch Barracks from its beginning to the present. It starts with a 30 minute background briefing on the history of Patch, then a tour lasting up to an hour and a half walking around the barracks where Fitzpatrick will point out historical places that were covered during the brief. The tour is limited to no more than 40 participants. It meets at 10 a.m. in the Washington Square parking lot, next to the Patch Chapel, and then the group



A mural over the doorway of a historic building and (inset) a piece of the Berlin Wall are included in the Patch Barracks tour.

Photos by Dan Fitzpatrick, historian, EUCOM

will move to the Rogers Conference Center for the briefing. Good walking shoes and sun screen are recommended, plus Also an umbrella

and a rain jacket if the forecast calls for watch rain.

Photographs and pets are permitted. The next tour dates are July

21, Aug. 18 and Sept. 15.

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Know before you go this summer

By Robert Szostek
U.S. Army Customs Agency

finding new homes for them.

It is also a good idea to apply early for import permits on restricted items, customs officials advise.

"Prohibited items include meat and meat products such as sausage, pâté and

salami, as well as plants, plant products and all destructive devices," said Tim Sellman, director of the U.S. European Command's Customs and Border Clearance Agency.

Explosive caps, tear gas projectiles, artillery simulators, fireworks, etc. are examples of destructive devices, he added.

"If you're planning on shipping firearms, ensure you have proof that you owned them in the States or have an import permit," he went on.

Sellman also explained that other important points to remember are:

- Owners of vehicles not made to U.S. standards have to ship them through commercial importers registered with the Department of Transportation and Environmental Protection Agency. However, vehicles more than 25 years old are exempt from this rule.

- Most mopeds and motorcycles must also meet U.S. safety and pollution standards, and all vehicles must be free of dirt, insects and vegetation.

- Wine collections can only be shipped with advance approval from the transportation office.

- Endangered species items such as ivory and some furs may only be shipped if owners can prove they were previously owned in the

U.S., or are antiques over 100 years old.

• State attorneys general must approve imports of gambling devices. These devices must be registered with the Justice Department in Washington, D.C.

Importable pets

People moving stateside this summer may take most types of pets with them if they plan ahead.



However, endangered species laws prevent people from taking some turtles, birds and reptiles to the United States.

"Dogs must be free of disease and be vaccinated against rabies at least 30 days before they reach the USA," Sellman, said. "Puppies younger than three months and dogs in rabies-free areas such as the United Kingdom may be exempted, however."

It varies by state, but generally unvaccinated dogs will be inoculated on arrival and confined for 30 days at the owner's expense. Cats must show no signs of disease and rabies vaccination is required in most states.

Arrangements to ship pet birds to the U.S. must be made 120 days in advance of the PCS.

Forbidden foodstuffs

Personnel shipping household goods to the U.S.

this summer should be aware when packing the contents of their kitchen, agriculture officials advise.

The Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, or CBP, issues fines of \$100-\$1,000 to first-time offenders who ignore the strict rules that apply to sending food products stateside.

"Red meats, sausages, pâtés and salami can harbor animal viruses, even if canned, and are therefore barred from import," said Julie Aliaga-Milos, U.S. Department of Agriculture adviser to EUCOM.

Even pasta or soup mixes that contain dried meat are not allowed, she added. Foot-and-mouth disease and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or mad cow disease) are examples of animal diseases that need to be kept out of the U.S. this way.

Fresh fruits and vegetables may not be sent to the U.S. in household goods because they can contain the eggs or larvae of voracious pests. The Mediterranean fruit fly is a good example of a bug that can hide in citrus and other fruits to bypass our defenses.

However, you can ship processed fruit and vegetable products such as canned fruit, olive oil, mustard and canned or processed sauces.

There are no restrictions on fish or mushrooms either, Aliaga-Milos said.

Commercially produced dried herbs and spices, tea, roasted coffee, cured cheeses, cakes, candies, cookies and roasted nuts are also okay.

Need more details?

- Before you ship, stop by the USAG Stuttgart Customs Office, Bldg. 2913, Panzer Kaserne. Call 431-2731/2657 or 071031-15-2731/2657. Another way to find out more is to visit the military customs website at www.eur.army.mil/opm/customs/uscustoms.htm.
- People wanting to ship pet birds should consult the U.S. Department of Agriculture website for the latest information on shipping birds as procedures can change at short notice. Visit www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport.
- Hawaii is the only place in the U.S. that is permanently free of rabies. Personnel moving to the Aloha State should check the Hawaii Department of Agriculture web page to find out about their special quarantine requirements for pets at hdoa.hawaii.gov/ai/aqs/.
- For more information on shipping pets and endangered species legislation, visit www.eur.army.mil/opm/customs/pets.htm.
- To find out more about importing food, plant and animal products into the United States, visit the CBP website at www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/agricultural-items.

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U.S. Forces hunting instructors complete recertification at Grafenwoehr, Baumholder

By IMCOM-Europe FMWR

During recent training sessions held at Grafenwoehr and Baumholder, 18 volunteer hunting instructors, both service members and civilians, earned their recertification to serve as chief instructors for U.S. Forces hunting courses in Germany.

Additionally, 12 other volunteers trained as support instructors for U.S. Forces hunting courses in Germany.

Volunteers representing garrisons Stuttgart, Ansbach, Bavaria, Rheinland-Pfalz and Wiesbaden, as well as Ramstein and Spangdahlem Air Bases successfully completed the courses.

"This recertification enables the U.S. Forces to continue conducting hunter training and certification within each represented garrison and air base," said Rafael Wunsch, IMCOM-Europe program manager for U.S. Forces Hunting, Fishing, and Sport Shooting in Germany. "European Union and all member nations are making every effort to keep infected animals from becoming available for human consumption and to limit the spread of this disease to Eastern Europe," Wunsch said.

The recertification training focused on African swine fever. Such insight ensures licensed hunters in Germany remain aware of the highly contagious disease that affects both domestic and wild pigs.

"Fortunately, the disease has no known effect on humans, and the

Besides game and wildlife issues, Wunsch noted that the recertifying instructors received updates on host-nation laws and U.S. Forces policies relating to weapons possession and registration procedures.

"Hunter training and certification classes normally take place in the fall and early spring each year,"



Photo by USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs
Michael and Daniel Boehme play the hunters greeting for U.S. service members arriving for hunter training.

Wunsch added.

Anyone interested in attending should contact the USAG Stuttgart Morale, Welfare and Recreation Outdoor Recreation at 431-2774 for more information on U.S. Forces hunting, fishing, or recreational sport shooting in Germany.

Girl Scout Juniors clean up the community to earn Bronze Award



Photos courtesy of GSA Overseas Troop #526

From left, the Girl Scout troop leaders and Scouts from Overseas Troop #526 who earned their Bronze Awards are Kyla Sikorski (troop leader); Mackenzie Welsh; Taylor Ransbottom; Katja Sikorski; Suneva Ockey; Caroline Meade (author of this story), Luella Sikorski; and Patti Meade (troop co-leader).

The hunt is afoot!

To join in the geocaching fun, log on to geocaching.com or download the app and input the following codes to find the caches hidden by Girl Scout Troop #526. Then use the biodegradable bag to hunt down trash.

- Panzer - GC7MXNB
- Patch - GC7MWDK
- Robinson - GC7MXNX
- Kelley - GC7MXPE

By Girl Scout Junior
Caroline Meade
*Stuttgart Girl Scouts
Overseas Troop #526*

Six girls from Stuttgart Girl Scouts Overseas Troop #526 have earned the third highest award in Girl Scouts, the Bronze Award. The six Juniors are Suneva Ockey, Taylor Ransbottom, Katja Sikorski, Luella Sikorski, and Mackenzie Welsh, and Caroline Meade, author of this story.

The girls noticed a trash problem and wanted to create a fun solution that could involve the entire community. These Girl Scouts decided to use geocaching to help eliminate the trash. Geocaching is a real-world treasure hunt in which people search for hidden containers using GPS coordinates.

The Scouts decided to use a special category of caches called "Cache in, Trash Out" (CITO). The cache containers have trash bags inside to encourage geocachers to clean up refuse in the area. They decided to go one step further by using biodegradable trash bags in their caches, limiting the trash

in landfills (Girl Scouts are always thinking outside the box and preparing themselves as future leaders who see the whole picture when finding ways to help the community and the environment).

The girls created four different caches, one near each of the four garrison residential installations in the Stuttgart area and wrote the directions and clues in both English and German to encourage more Americans to get out and join the fun adventure of geocaching. The waterproof cache containers each hold the biodegradable trash bags, a logbook (where cachers record their names and the date they found the cache) and a pencil. There is also a "First to Find" coin for the lucky cacher who is first to discover the cache. The girls also handmade small swag items for the cachers to take and trade.

Additionally, the scouts included a trackable with a serial number. Cachers can find the trackable and move it to another geocache. Then they can record the number online and where they put it so the Scouts can track its progress.

The caches went live on the geocaching.com site about two months ago. The caches held a code and the first person who got all four codes won a prize.

If you're a girl interested in getting involved in the community, making new friends and creating the memories of a lifetime, please look into joining Girl Scouts in Stuttgart. Parents are also highly encouraged to get involved and sign up to be leaders—every girl needs a great role model. Visit www.usagso.org/.



Junior Girl Scout Luella Sikorski works on one of the geocache boxes hidden around the Stuttgart military community.



This is what to look for when geocaching the biodegradable trash bags and logbook.

Tailoring basic travel protective measures

By John Reese
 USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs
 Information provided by the USAG
 Stuttgart Protection Branch

Touring Europe is one of the biggest opportunities available to members of the Stuttgart military community. The proximity of multiple countries all within a few hours of travel offers the chance of visiting

many different landmarks, cultures and peoples.

Using the following tips, Americans traveling abroad can help ensure their adventures are safe during all manner of emergencies.

State of your travels

- Register with the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program. STEP lets you receive alerts and messages for your travel destinations. Visit <https://step.state.gov/step>.
- Get travel alerts and country specific information from the Foreign Clearance Guidance and State Department websites at <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html>
- and <https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil/>.

Before you go

Friends or family, discuss security with your fellow travelers before you go. Check out the Department of State's travel advisories for your destinations and get embassy phone numbers. Depending on the destination, service members may need to get approval from their chain of command first. Military personnel and civilian employees should complete a foreign travel report with the garrison's Protection Branch; the interactive form includes a number of useful links that provide up-to-date country information.

"In addition to being a command requirement, the Foreign Travel Brief is designed to provide guidance to our personnel during their

travel stages of planning, travelling and returning from travel," said Felix Arroyo Acevedo, command security manager, USAG-Stuttgart S-3/5/7. "It informs the traveler of available links, training requirements required by each specific country or theater. It also allows the traveler to provide the command with their travel plans, information on where they will be, for us to be able to contact travelers of any emergencies that can occur and provide assistance, if required."

Figure out the local security environment in advance by searching the Internet to determine potential safe havens. And follow the advice from the original Q to James Bond: "Always have an escape plan."

On the way

If you're traveling by air, go to the airport with enough time to get through security, but not so much time that you must linger longer than necessary. Go directly through security to minimize the time spent in the unsecured front of the terminal.

Do the same thing after you collect your luggage from the baggage carousel – get your gear and move out.

Photo by Franck Boston / shutterstock.com



The garrison Antiterrorism Office advises that airports and other mass transportation hubs are "attractive targets for terrorism."

Upon arrival, avoid unmarked taxis, buses and other forms of unofficial transportation, and only use reputable ground transportation.

Once you're there

In the event of an emergency, you should have a rendezvous location for your party. Find easy rally points that offer some protection, such as walls, barriers, and depending on the weather, overhead cover.

From a security standpoint, the ATO recommends avoiding clothing that identifies you as an American, to include your vehicle if you drove (and in general during your tour of duty in Germany, remove flags, stickers and decals that mark you as a U.S. citizen). Speak quietly and don't draw attention to yourself. In other words, be inconspicuous.

If attending an event at a large venue, such as a sports stadium, remain vigilant and know where the exits are. If separated from your party, go to your rally point. Notify your unit and the local embassy or consulate that you're okay. Whether the emergency is a natural or manmade disaster, you can let your friends and family know you're okay through the American Red Cross's "Safe and Well" website (Editor's note: See related article, p.14).

Home again

"Once travel is done, there is debriefing form to allow the traveler to inform us of any problems, harassment, crime, surveillance, elicitation, or detention encountered while travelling," Acevedo said. "This information could be useful for future travelers in the same area."



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Community members earn their colors during 5K run

Story and photos by Larry Reilly
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Some 40 to 50 people gathered on Patch Barracks' Husky Field to participate in a 5K run that had them earn their colors, June 23.

The 5K color run was in recognition of LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer) Pride Month, organized by USAG Stuttgart's Equal Opportunity Office.

The Department of Defense annually recognizes June as LGBT Pride Month. That recognition stems from the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal proclamation that former President Barack Obama signed on Sept. 20, 2011. The letter G, representing the gay community, was recently added to the Pride Month logo by the respective LGBT communities.

The Stuttgart Community has participated in a number of LGBTQ ceremonies during the past few years favoring the guest speaker ceremonies.

"We wanted to do something different this year," said Dee Dimond, representative, Louisiana Masonic Jurisdiction, a non-profit community organization that hosted the run. "Instead of the traditional cake-cutting and speaker ceremony, we decided to do a color run, because no one should be afraid to show their



Participants make their own rainbow of colored chalk to end the Pride Month 5k Color Run, June 23.

true colors."

The group gathered for this run didn't include the traditional runners ready with their water bottles and stop watches to ensure their times were accurate and better than their last race.

This group included runners with colorful outfits, to include tutus and fluffy head gear as well as families with strollers and dogs on a leash. It was all about having fun, yet appreciating the cause.

"It was a good event that enabled us as a family to have some fun and go at our own pace," said Samson Roberts, who had the pleasure of pushing his little girls Rosealeigh and Romea in a double-wide stroller. "The run was fun, but we also came out to support the overall cause of the run: equal rights" said Lanie Roberts.

The 5K color run snaked its way through Patch Barracks, and at each of the 1K markers the runners were covered with another color of the rainbow.

"I was covered with a lot of colored chalk and loved every bit of this run," said Sonya Lindsey, who bet her 13-year-old son, Carter, that she could beat him. His sprint at the end silenced her claim.

"Those young legs prevailed."

Although there was no cost to run and no trophies for

the winners, there was still a need for a number of people to volunteer their time to ensure the event was fun and successful.

"I am very thankful for the many people who volunteered their time to be chalk throwers and the DJ for the motivating music, but most of all for everyone who participated in the color run and being good natured about all the colored chalk we threw at them—and we threw a lot of chalk," Dimond said. "Also, a big shout-out to the (MPs) for ensuring safety along the 5K course and the fire department for hosing down all the chalk on the road."

When the last of the runners had dashed through the 5K tossing of colored chalk mark, Dimond had everyone grab some colored chalk for one last group throw to end it all with a lot of good natured smiles.

Editor's note: The next big run coming up will be the annual Run to Remember, July 14. Watch the garrison's Facebook and MWR pages for more info.

FMWR offers an 'unlimited' summertime program, health fair

By John Reese
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

There's no better time than the present to get in shape, and the garrison's Family & Morale, Welfare and Recreation gyms are making summertime fitness a cinch.

"The next program is our group fitness unlimited summertime membership," said Felicia Hanes, fitness coordinator, FMWR. "Take an unlimited number of classes at any fitness facility for one flat rate."

The unlimited membership for group fitness classes began July 1 and continues until the end of August. Individual memberships go for \$45, and family memberships for \$60 when purchased the first half of the month; from mid-month until the

end of the month, the pro-rated price is \$22.50 for individuals and \$30 for the families. Note, the unlimited membership doesn't include strength and sports conditioning class or Krav Maga.

"The next program is our Health and Wellness Fair, Sept. 15," Hanes said.

The fair will include a gym tour, an intro to the gym (how to set up the machines and a demo of workout by numbers, gym etiquette, etc.), a group fitness sampler, healthy snacks and more, such as classes, clinics and smoking cessation—even better posture. There will also be massage therapy mini sessions and the "Pump & Run 5K Dirndl Dash Fun Run." Watch the Stuttgart FMWR webpage for more information.

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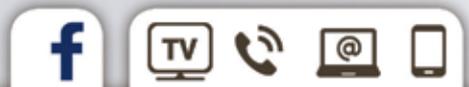


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