



Motorcyclists defy the rain for a 'Good Ride'



Take the SHS 2018 graduating class with you in this poster-sized photo

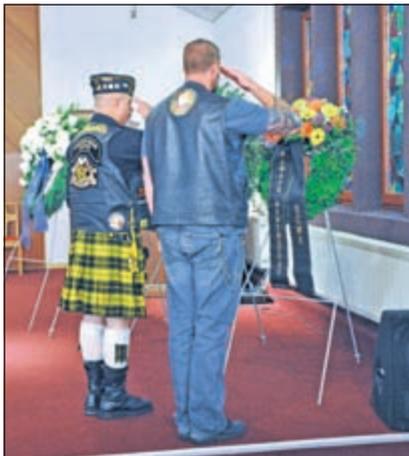
Stuttgart community honors fallen heroes for Memorial Day 2018

By Bardia Khajenoori
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs
Photos by Visual Information
7th Army Training Command

As gray storm clouds moved ominously over the Patch Barracks Chapel ahead of Memorial Day, the message from the observance inside was clear: when reflecting on the sacrifice of those who gave their lives for their country, focus on their stories — not statistics.

The ceremony took place May 24 and featured remembrances and involvement from across the joint community. Stuttgart High School's JJROTC posted the colors and Keith Rossetto of the U.S. Army Health Clinic performed the national anthem before Ch. (Col.) James Boulware, garrison chaplain, provided an invocation.

Rear Adm. John W. Smith, chief of staff, U.S. European Command, served



Above, the SHS JROTC posts the colors; left, the SCME salutes to the memory of the fallen; right, Tyler Johnson, American Legion, addresses the gathering.

as the keynote speaker and urged attendees to consider the people behind the numbers.

"Too often, we look at statistics to describe the cost of war—how many dollars were spent, the number of direct hits on targets, the number of missiles launched from ships at sea, or, sadly, the number of service members killed," Smith said. "It is important, on Memorial Day in particular, that those who lost their lives in service to their country have faces and names ascribed to them and that their deeds be remembered each and every day."

Smith recounted the bravery of service members such as Army Col. William Wood and Lt. Jennifer Moreno,

who were killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, respectively, as they rushed to assist injured comrades. He also told the story of Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class David Bosley, Petty Officer 3rd Class Matthew Schlimme, and Seaman Clinton Miniken, who gave their lives attempting a rescue mission in rough seas off Washington state.

Smith noted that while personnel may not have family nearby with whom to share the day of remembrance, the 21 American cemeteries in Europe offer a unique opportunity to recognize the sacrifices of more than 100,000 service members on the continent on which they were made on.

"While you're here, we can take the

opportunity to walk those hallowed grounds," he said. "To understand, to feel, to reminisce about the sacrifices that each and every one of those individuals who are buried there have made for us."

Representatives from American Legion Stuttgart Post 6, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10810, the Association of the United States Army, and the Stuttgart Clan of Motorcycle Enthusiasts placed memorial wreaths inside the chapel in a solemn salute that was followed by the playing of Taps.

Tyler Johnson, commander of the American Legion post, reminded attendees that every American can feel closely connected to the contributions of those honored on Memorial Day, regardless of a military affiliation.

"Even if you are not a Gold Star family member, a battle buddy, a friend, or a relative of a fallen hero, all you have to do is look around you and you will see their legacy," Johnson said. "It is us, Americans, gathered in a free society, unified with the common purpose of honoring uncommon bravery. We are their legacy."



Safety tips for the 101 critical days

By John Reese
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Summertime, and the living is easy ... and safe, provided you remain aware of the "101 Critical Days of Safety" between Memorial Day and Labor Day. And while Memorial Day doesn't officially begin summer (that will be the summer solstice, June 21, although some cultures consider summer underway when the Maypole goes up on May 1), it is considered the unofficial start of summer and the 101 days.

"The 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign is important for the Stuttgart military community because now's the time when the weather is warmer and people are out doing the activities that they put on hold during the winter months," said Anthony Edwards,

manager, USAG Stuttgart Safety Office. "The sun is shining, people are enjoying summertime sports out at pools or approved lakes, firing up the grill, riding bikes and doing things they haven't done for a few months, so their skills may be rusty."

According to the Edwards, the objective of the Critical Days of Summer Campaign 2018 is to raise awareness, locally, within the Stuttgart joint service community. Everybody should realize that safety is personal for their families, friends, co-workers and themselves.

The best thing community members can do is to use personal risk management and look at every activity they are doing, Edwards said. If they break down their activities step-by-step, and identify potential hazards, they need to do whatever they can to reduce those

hazards. Service members, DOD civilians and contractors also need to let their leadership know what activities they are participating in so that supervisors can help give the proper guidance. Talking to leaders can help them make the right choices.

During these 101 Critical Days of Summer, with the increase of activities, Stuttgart military community members must be aware of the associated risks and the importance of making informed decisions.

"I want to stress that leaders should be engaging with their personnel and getting involved in what their people are doing in their extra-curricular time to help point them in the right direction and make sure that they are making the right decisions to keep themselves as safe as possible," Edwards said.

All branches of service within the Stuttgart military community observe something akin to the Army's annual summer safety program, and much of the advice is similar. Regardless of your service or civilian occupation, the following tips will help make your summer season one free of unfortunate incidents, on and off duty.

Beat the heat

The heat of summer comes and goes in Southern Germany. It was cold and rainy on May 20, the Sunday the garrison motorcycle rally took place, and hot and sunny the next day. Know the signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion/stroke and seek immediate medical attention if you experience any of them.

See Safety tips, p.4

The campaign is over, but AER helps Soldiers all year

By John Reese
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The USAG Stuttgart Army Emergency Relief annual campaign officially began March 1 and ended May 15. The final amount of donations received Army-wide for 2018 has yet to be tallied; locally, as of May 18, the garrison has received \$17,287,62 in donations.

The annual campaign is to increase awareness about donating to and receiving assistance from AER.

“Every donation counts and is important to the campaign,” said Army Community Service financial readiness specialist and AER relief officer Merilee K. Nevins. “So far, donations are quite a bit lower this year, but we hope they will



Photo by Markeith Horace, Maneuver Center of Excellence Public Affairs

continue to increase. Donations can be received throughout the year.”

In 2017, USAG Stuttgart raised \$38,097.50.

“It’s just the campaign ended May 15,” Nevins said. “However, donations can be accepted

throughout the year.”

The AER campaign helps promote a better understanding of AER programs and benefits, such as scholarships and interest-free loans.

“We are very fortunate that donations are consolidated into a general fund from which all installations can draw from,” Nevins said. “In 2017, USAG Stuttgart

provided \$89,029.03 for a total of 49 Soldiers and family members—active or retired—and so far in 2018, we have provided \$43,668.53 for 20.”

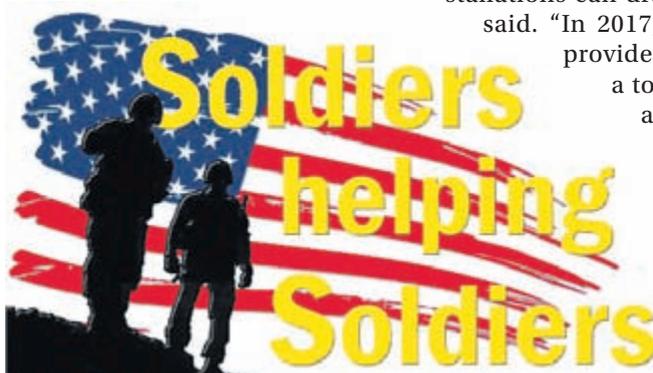
It’s a chance for Soldiers to

help their fellow Soldiers.

(Editor’s note: USAG Stuttgart is a purple community unlike typical Army garrisons. The other services have their own relief agencies as well for their service members to make donations. For Airmen, it is the Air Force Aid Society; for the Navy and Marine Corps, it’s the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society; and for the Coast Guard, it’s Coast Guard Mutual Assistance.)

What can AER provide?

- Emergency travel
- Healthcare expenses
- Food purchases
- Essential furniture
- Funeral expenses
- Rent or mortgage
- Initial rent and deposit
- Appliance maintenance
- Minor home repairs
- Utilities



Graphic courtesy of AER

Soldiers helping Soldiers since 1942

AER was founded in 1942 as the Army’s own nonprofit organization dedicated to providing emergency financial assistance to Soldiers (active and retired) and their families during times of distress. Total assistance since 1942 is \$1.9 billion with 3.7 million Soldiers and their families served. In 2017, 43,734 Soldiers and families were served for a total assistance of \$69.7 million. To make a donation or request assistance, call 431-3348 or 07031-15-3348; visit the AER office in ACS, Bldg. 2915, Panzer Kaserne; or go to www.AERHQ.org.

Garrison welcomes incoming garrison CSM

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The USAG Stuttgart will welcome its newest senior enlisted adviser, Command Sgt. Maj. Toese Tia Jr., in a change of responsibility ceremony on Washington Square, Patch Barracks, at 10 a.m. June 15.

The native of American Samoa began his military career Sept. 21, 1989, at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Since then, Tia has served in every enlisted leadership position from team leader to his present rank, holding a variety of leadership positions with increasing

responsibility, including numerous combat tours. He most recently served as the senior enlisted adviser for the U.S. Army Materiel Support Command-Korea. He previously served in Germany in Kaiserslautern with the 21st Theater Sustainment Command.

Tia’s military and professional education includes Air Assault School, Airborne School, Jump Master School, Special Forces Assessment and Selection Course, Drill Sergeant School, Ranger School, Logistics Management Course, First Sergeant’s Course, United States Army Sergeants Major Academy,

the Battalion Pre-Command Course and CSM Development Program. He is currently pursuing a degree in Business Management from Excelsior College, Albany, NY.

Tia is also a member of the prestigious Sergeant Audi-Murphy Club and a recipient of the coveted Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe and the General Brehom B. Somervell Medal of Excellence.

Tia will assume responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Mariano Z. Alvarez, who will retire in a ceremony immediately after relinquishing responsibility.



Tia



UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON STUTTGART

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Garrison Command Sgt. Maj.
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Asian, Pacific culture on full display during celebration

Story and photos by Larry Reilly
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The cultural diversity of the Asian Pacific Islander region was on display during a celebration of song, dance and music at the Panzer Kaserne Main Exchange, May 12.

“Since 1992, May has been designated to recognize the personal achievements and valuable contributions to the American story by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders,” said Sgt. 1st Class Deconda Clark, US Africa Command Equal Opportunity Advisor, as she shared some cultural information on the Asian region and the various ethnic groups that make up the population. “We celebrate the cultural traditions, ancestry, native languages and unique experiences represented among more than 56 ethnic groups, speaking more than 100 different languages, from Asia and the Pacific Islands who live in the United States.”

Jerry Ka’ehu, a native Hawaiian, serenaded the audience of more than 60 people to help kick off the Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month program when he presented a unique rendition of



Philippine American German Association in Stuttgart members go through the moves of the Salakot dance.

“Over the Rainbow”.

Lyn Lueders followed by singing a traditional song of the Philippines called “Ikaw”, translated means “It’s you.”

The Philippine American German Association in Stuttgart (PAGASA), closed out the program

with two Filipino traditional dances, the “Salakot” and the “Tinikling”. The “Salakot” revealed some colorful Philippine costumes and the dancing talents of the association’s members as they performed the many moves of the dance, which is native to the rural Northern Philippines and centers on the “salakot”, a native head wear worn to protect from the sun and rain.

“Tinikling”, a song named after a local Philippine bird called Tikling which feeds off the rice fields. The dancers dodge in and out of moving bamboo poles in an attempt to mimic the Tikling’ moves to evade the various traps set to capture him in the rice fields.

This dance showcased the fancy foot work of the PAGASA’s youth as they took turns dancing in, over and around the moving bamboo poles. Just to prove the dance does present a challenge, a number of the

audience members were invited to try their skills at the dance.

“I thought it would be easy, but it took a little work to get the footwork down, but it was fun,” said Ellie Baker, 10th Grader at Patch High School. “I really thought the ceremony was a really nice tribute.”

The tribute was a combination of efforts by the US Army Garrison Stuttgart, Equal Opportunity Office, the AFRICOM Equal Opportunity Office and the AAFES main exchange.

“This event is one of many ethnic observances the three agencies collectively do throughout the year,” said Sgt 1st Class Mark Quintanilla, USAG Stuttgart Equal Opportunity advisor. “We have a great number of Asian American Pacific Islanders in the Stuttgart community and they are always eager and willing to share their songs and cultural traditions with us.”



Jerry Ka’ehu plays the ukulele and sings during the ceremony.



Members of the audience try their luck at the Tinikling dance.

Stuttgart volunteers offered a 'stampede' of service in 2017

Story by Bardia Khajenoori
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart offered a "yee-haw" of appreciation to its volunteers in a Western-themed Volunteer Recognition Ceremony held at the Patch Community Club, April 25.

The event provided a local book-end to the Army-wide Volunteer Appreciation Week of April 15-21 and honored all volunteer contributors while also presenting five category-based Volunteer of the Year awards and five Commander's Awards of Excellence.

"Without volunteers, this community would not run; they are integral to everything we do," said Col. Neal A. Corson, commander, USAG Stuttgart. He noted volunteers' contributions in areas ranging from schools and private organizations to the garrison Directorate of Human Resources. "I appreciate every single one of them and all of you here who will be recognized today."

A total of 613 registered volunteers performed 67,988 hours of registered service throughout calendar year 2017, said Jessica LaGassey-Simpson, volunteer coordinator, Army Community Service. The national civic organization Independent Sector calculates the estimated value of each volunteer hour at \$24.69—meaning those tens of thousands of service hours equate to a cost savings of \$1,678,873 for the garrison. Corson was presented with a giant check in that amount in a symbolic representation of the collective contributions.

"We owe our volunteers a debt of gratitude that we can never repay,"

LaGassey-Simpson said. "The best we can do is to thank them, recognize them, and celebrate them."

Recipients of the various Volunteer of the Year awards were nominated either by offices within the garrison or by registered private organizations active within the community. They were awarded in the categories of youth, civilian, military, senior and spouse, with final decisions made by a panel of judges.

Youth Volunteer of the Year Michaela-Katherine Mika Taylor

"I think volunteering is really important because it helps shape communities, so I always find time for it," said Taylor, who is a full-time student. "I want everyone, especially youth, to go out and volunteer because we can make the world different little by little, and the more people who are involved, the better."

Civilian Volunteer of the Year Karen Damm

"I like the fact that it's brought both the German and the American communities into one organization," Damm said of her participation with the Stuttgart German-American Wandering Club.

Military Volunteer of the Year Petty Officer 1st Class Ryan O'Hagan

O'Hagan was selected by the USO as an event, front desk volunteer and tour guide. He has since moved on to a new assignment.

Senior Volunteer of the Year Gladys Williams

Without her help, during an



Photo by Holly DeCarlo-White, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Tawania Kovacs, director, USAG Stuttgart ACS, presents a giant check representing the dollar a value of volunteer service to the garrison in 2017 to garrison commander Col. Neal A. Corson.

employee and contract switchover, the thrift shop would not have been able to stay open," her nomination read. "Her commitment and love for the store and the community is evident in her smile and in her heart for the people she serves."

Spouse Volunteer of the Year Pamela Sherode

"I really wanted to be in (Human Resources) because that's my background, so I was pleased to be able to work in the passport office, ID office, in-and-out-processing, etc.," Sherode said.

Commander's Award of Excellence: Jennie Baumbach, Nan Lawless, Marie Mather, Debra Papalia and Gudrun Kaper

In addition, the Commander's

Award of Excellence was awarded to five individuals with over 1,000 hours of service over the course of 2017.

Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal Sgt. 1st Class Cornelius Walsh

Awarded in recognition of his service as president of the Better Opportunities for Single Service Members Program since December 2016.

Join the community of Stuttgart volunteers

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

Safety tips

continued from p.1

Heat injuries can be built up over a couple of days, and heat stroke is a serious life-threatening condition. You should schedule physical activities like exercise during the cooler part of the day. Always use sunscreen and appropriate clothing to protect against UV rays, and drink plenty of water. And watch the coffee and energy drinks; caffeine makes the body lose water, increasing the risk of heat injuries.

"Yes, Grill Sergeant!"

Before you slap that first brat on the barbecue, inspect your gas grill (and then do it regularly) to ensure hoses and valve connections are tight and in good working order. If you're using an old-school grill, check it for rust so you're not getting it in your food and so the bottom of the grill isn't fixing to give out. Whatever type of barbecue you're using, give the grill a good scrub to remove old gunk, bugs and debris for food safety. When you barbecue, never

grill inside, to include an outdoor gazebo-type area, and never leave a grill unattended. Keep a fire extinguisher nearby and go easy on the charcoal lighter fluid. And always keep the kids and pets away from the grill.

Everybody into the pool, lake, river, ocean, etc.

Swim only in designated and supervised places. Parents are responsible for supervising their kids. Never leave children unsupervised near water. Bademeister (lifeguards) may not always watch the pool but are always there and trained in water rescue and first aid/CPR. And don't overestimate yourself by swimming alone, when exhausted, overheated or immediately after eating. Use approved flotation devices. Never jump or dive into unknown waters where there may be hidden hazards such as shallow water and rocks not visible from the surface.

As for diving and other water sports, use the buddy system and make certain your equipment is good to go. A scuba regulator malfunction at 100 feet is

direr than a loose skeg on a surfboard, and both can ruin your day. Be careful if using watercraft, especially motorized boats, jet skis, etc. Know how the equipment you're using works before you leave the shore. Kayaking local rivers is becoming more popular; stay with your buddy or group guide and wear the proper flotation gear.

Ride on!

When riding a bicycle on post, cyclists should yield to traffic when appropriate, obey all traffic laws, and look before crossing lanes. The pedestrian crosswalks are not bike lanes, especially at the front gate where vehicles are entering/exiting. And skip the tunes, because wearing headphones, earphones or other listening devices is prohibited.

During hours of darkness or reduced visibility, bicycles must be equipped with an operable headlight (a cyclist's flashing taillight is a good idea) and wear reflective clothing. A Consumer Product Safety Commission approved helmet is also a must. Check with the garrison Safety Office if you

have more two-wheeler questions.

Hey, Mr. Bartender

Alcohol is a contributing factor in many summer (and year-round, for that matter) incidents, so don't put yourself into a situation where you're on the road or in the water after drinking. Go easy on the sauce no matter what you're doing.

Your source for safety

For more information on summer safety or programs within the garrison, contact the USAG Stuttgart Safety Office at 430-5472/5471/5434/5473 or 0711-680-5472/5471/5434/5473.

Hydrate yourself. Read the "Fluid Replacement and Work/Rest Guide" at <http://phc.amedd.army.mil>. For up-to-date info, visit the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Safety Facebook page at www.facebook.com/armysafety/.

Motorcyclists take a scenic, soggy 'Good Ride'

By John Reese

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

You can tell the hardcore motorcycle enthusiasts from the fair-weather riders when the heavens open up with cold rain and the roads become slippery. An intrepid 41 out of a hundred bikers registered for the "Good Ride Salutes USAG Stuttgart" motorcycle poker run defied the elements for a successful, safe, Sunday putt of about 100 miles, May 20.

"The day saw some great synergy," said Martha Povich, event manager, USAG Stuttgart Family & Morale, Welfare and Recreation. "May is Motorcycle Safety Month, and our garrison Safety Office and our Motorcycle Safety Foundation rider-coaches led with safety briefings for riders before the five-stop poker run throughout the Black Forest."

Sunday dawned soggy with riders (some with passengers) wearing appropriate weather-resistant riding gear. They signed in or registered to make the run, bolstered by coffee and breakfast items provided by FMWR.

A spirited blessing of the bikes preceded the run, offered by Ch. (Lt. Col.) Derrick Riggs, deputy command chaplain, U.S. European Command. Riggs' said he'd prayed for a break in the weather just as the rain abated over Panzer Kaserne. After that, the thunder came not from the sky, but from the 41 bikes of assorted makes and models as they revved up to start. A handful of cameras, one team filming from the back of a truck ahead of the column of bikes as it exited Panzer's back gate, documented the event for their respective media outlets.

The ride was led by former professional freestyle motocross competitor Carey Hart, creator of the Good Ride Rally and supporter of a charitable foundation that supports veterans and their families, especially those from suffering mental and physical disabilities.

"I personally don't have a lot of experience with the military, but my wife's family is all military. My



Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs



Photo by Bardia Khajenoori, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Riders huddle under a canopy and umbrellas to avoid the rain during the morning check-in, May 20.

father-in-law was in Vietnam, his wife was in Vietnam, and my brother-in-law is Air Force at the Pentagon right now, and he's getting deployed in a couple of weeks," Hart said. "For me, personally, I go to a lot of motorcycle rallies. We started (Good Ride) because we wanted to do our part."

As soon as they were a few miles away from post, intermittent showers of varying intensities continued most of the route. At each stop, riders could warm up and enjoy a complimentary hot beverage and snack as they drew their cards, all vying for the best poker hand at the end.

The first stop was at the world famous chocolate factory in historic Waldenbuch, followed by stops at a bakery or restaurant open on a day that was both Sunday and German holiday. The winding route through scenic, small towns was perfect for motorcyclists despite the dodgy weather.

By the time the riders pulled back into the kaserne and poured the water out of their boots, the sun was shining and the party was in full swing.

"It was really amazing to see all the folks and departments, as well as the German Polizei, work together to make this happen," said Mary "Tweedy" Knief, manager, FMWR Commercial Sponsorship and Advertising. "FMWR and the entire garrison team came together to bring a really cool event to the community."

Burgers and brats flew off the grill, complete with sides and non-alcoholic drinks, as "The American Hitmen," a truly rockin' band composed of Iraq combat veteran Marines, entertained with classic rock and original tunes. And the Hitmen weren't the only Marines in support of the rally.

"In the afternoon we got help setting up and taking down for the barbecue from a brilliant Marine



Photo by Bardia Khajenoori, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

A future motorcyclist and his family admire a bike while the rally fest is in full swing. The day ended warm and partly cloudy.



Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Motocross pro Carey Hart holds court at the fourth poker card stop on the 100 mile "Good Ride Salutes Stuttgart," May 20.

Forces-Europe team of volunteers," Povich said.

The winners of the poker run were announced and the band finished up the day with a rock 'n roll playing of the National Anthem reminiscent of Jimmi Hendricks' rendition.

"For us, it's to raise awareness of the military, raise awareness for what happens when everybody comes back home," Hart said. "We just try to do our part to help."

Safe motorcycling tips

- Always inspect your motorcycle before you ride. Use the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's T-CLOCS (tires, controls, lights, oil, chassis and stands) prior to saddling-up to ensure your bike is in good working order
- Wear proper personal protective equipment: a reflective upper outer garment that incorporates fluorescent and highly reflective material (this must be worn at all times when operating or riding as a passenger, on and off post).
- Ride defensively and avoid following too closely, and remember to adjust speed for road and weather conditions.
- Don't ride fatigued and take breaks at least every 2 hours, and never drink and ride.

Creative crafting highlights Military Spouse Appreciation Day

Story and photos by Larry Reilly
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Military spouses challenged their creative minds to produce works of art during the Military Spouse Appreciation Day workshop at the Patch Community Club, May 12.

Designing usable cheeseboards, dressing up slumping bottles and putting paint to canvas were the artsy challenges offered to more than 200 community members by the staffs of Army Community Service and the Patch Arts & Crafts Center.

"We wanted to do something different this year in recognition of Military Spouse Appreciation Day, and thought who doesn't like doing crafts," said April Plumley, ACS coordinator and creative mind behind the daylong workshop.

With ACS collaborating with a number of supportive sponsors to bring it all together, and the Patch Arts & Crafts Center providing the talents of their in-house instructors, it was all up to the community members to tap into their inner creative minds and paint a Picasso or a Rembrandt that they could proudly display in their homes.

"I am not sure I will be able to create a master piece of that level, but I will give it my best," said Stacy Morrison as her floral arrangement started to blossom on the canvas with each stroke of the paintbrush. "I really like this idea of offering the opportunity to do some crafts and I waited all week to try it."



Artists take to canvas at the Patch Community Club as they participate in Military Spouse Appreciation Day, May 12.

Tapping into one's creative mind and then applying that thought via hands and fingers, especially in the cheeseboard area where vigorous sanding of the board is required, can be exhausting. To help reenergize the crafters, a food table of sandwiches, fruits and vegetables was available.

"Our hopes were that people would stay the entire day and try their hands at each of the three craft areas, and we provided them with four

time sessions so they could actually come and go if they had chores to take care of during the day," Plumley said. "The tough part to gauge prior to the event was how much food and how many boards, bottles and canvases we would need to get."

Plumley had hoped to get 300 people to participate, but that number seemed a bit ambitious when only 90 people had registered by the deadline. But knowing that word of mouth would spread rapidly across the community, and "who doesn't like to crash the party," she went with a hopeful 200.

"We heard about the event and decided to attend, and are really glad we did; so much to do here," said Devin

Weingarten, who along with her husband, Master Sgt. Adam Weingarten and their four-year-old son Noah, tried their skills at designing some cheeseboards. "This is such a great idea and a nice way to get out and talk to people."

According to a number of people who took the craft challenges, the workshop was a success, but Plumley hopes the success of the challenge continues.

"The one-day workshop was a nice way to introduce or reintroduce arts and crafts to the community. We only hope that many of the people who participated will in the future go to the Patch Arts & Crafts Center and continue to get crafty," she said.



Military spouses decorate "slumping bottles," glass that has been reshaped, during Military Spouse Appreciation Day, May 12.



Every kitchen can use a cheese cutting board, and spouses had the chance to personalize their own, May 12.

Community town halls recap issues discussed

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Due to the number of issues addressed at the community town halls that took place in April and May on Kelley, Robinson and Patch Barracks and Panzer Kaserne, the following is a greatly reduced abbreviated recap of issues and answers. The complete recap is online.

Patch Barracks, May 31

Men's sauna repair status

A contract has just been awarded and it should be fixed by November 2018. New showers will also be installed.

Decline in the quality of commissary produce & pricing

The commissary has been short-staffed and recently hired a new produce manager. It's looking at internal ordering practices, working to get produce up to standard, and will look into pricing irregularities reported.

MP's ticketing housing parking spaces

Parking a single vehicle in two resident parking spots is a violation of the parking policy, however, residents can bring these tickets to the MP Desk and have the ticket removed.

Traffic and gate hours

The K&K gate hours for outbound traffic in the afternoon/evening are 4:30-6 p.m. If EUCOM can provide service members to have the gate open longer hours, DES will work with them.

Speed bumps/speeding on Arkansas and Vermont

All bumps are within standard. DES will explore conducting additional speed enforcement along this section of road and is looking for members of a Community Speedwatch Program.

Water testing

Testing is mandated for legionella bacteria and lead testing by operational orders from headquarters. The garrison will try to synchronize testing.

Duty bus A/C

The transportation office will look into this and discuss with the drivers.

Panzer Kaserne, May 23

New commissary

The current completion date/opening of the new commissary is November of 2021.

DeCA/PX inconsistencies

DeCA tries to stock top sellers in



Photo by Holly DeCarlo-White, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Garrison commander Col. Neal Corson, center, responds to questions at the Robinson Barracks town hall, May 16.

each category. All stores should have the same sale price on an item if it is on promotion through the DeCA plan. Uniform prices apply at AAFES worldwide for the same product from the same source. If customers experience a price difference for the "exact" same item, please alert a manager or supervisor to correct the situation.

Dog bites and parks

Community residents should report incidents to the MP desk and DES to document that the event occurred. Residents should report issues such as holes. Patch Barracks is recommended for people to bring their dogs from Panzer for a more spacious dog run option.

Robinson Barracks, May 16

Duty bus

There are many reasons for bus delays; one delay in traffic can hold them up. The installation transportation officer is working to ensure buses don't leave earlier than posted times. The garrison is looking at putting radios in the buses to communicate with the bus drivers while they are on route.

Mail

The Directorate of Human Resources is tracking that there has been a problem with the German Post Office not delivering mail across all of RB. Currently, delivery doesn't include DHL; FedEx has post access.

Sprinkler systems

The fire alarms and sprinkler systems all function, but aren't connected to alert the fire department. In the event of a fire or emergency, someone must call 112 or the MP Desk at 31-3102 or 07031-15-3102 for response. RB has multiple fire departments in the area with less than 15-minute response times.

MP's not patrolling or sleeping

Send a photo or the license plate number so DES can address it with leadership. Using ICE tracks an issue and gets looked at by everyone. Call the MPs, it will be more immediate. MPs are welcome to come in to the RB Zentrum for coffee when it's open.

What is the update with Legionnaire's testing?

Testing started May 14 and should be complete shortly after press time. See the July Citizen for the results.

Solar panel installation and parking

The installation will last three months and spaces will be relieved as buildings are completed.

Is it true that the duplexes down the hill have toxic gases?

The area is a former dumping ground for construction materials during World War II. After testing, there were elevated levels of gases found. The health inspector did testing and gave the OK for living quarters, pending the installation of testing/safety monitoring systems. The U.S. is trying to request funding from Germany in order to occupy them. They're six years old and have never been lived in.

Food truck

The Exchange is committed to providing services on RB and other installation as the demand continues to prove successful.

Kelley Barracks, April 19

Buses, trucks detour through housing

DES met with the concerned citizen after the town hall and walked the ground that was discussed in the issue. Some of the traffic issues are a direct result of the sewer construction project and will be addressed as

such. The suggested alternate traffic route for buses is now implemented and DES will implement increased targeted enforcement in this area.

Kelley Club for events

Clubs and special event centers on-post operated by FMWR are available at a cost. Clubs on-post are business-based and must make a profit to remain open.

Kelley Club as a club

FMWR is working with AFRICOM on a lunch program concept.

Thefts/Vandalism issues in housing areas

Suspected theft and vandalism should immediately be reported to the MP Desk at: 431-3102 or civ. 07031-15-3102 for investigation.

Pedestrian gate breakdowns

The issues involve the equipment, software and the connectivity. AFRICOM recently purchased a new gate for Kelley Barracks that should improve reliability.

Library book return box

FMWR will provide library drop boxes at the Kelley and Panzer hotels.

Off post overflow parking lot

The garrison is looking into this suggestion. An advantage is that Kelley has close public transportation.

Contacts and full recaps

To contact installation coordinators and find a full version of all recaps from the recent garrison town halls, visit www.stuttgartcitizen.com/news/community-town-hall-recap-2018/.



Ask a JAG: Considering Advance Medical Directives

By Judge Advocate Capt. Matthew N. Karchaske
Chief of Client Services
Stuttgart Legal Center

Q: I read that article in "The Stuttgart Citizen" last month—the one about wills, written by that extremely intelligent and handsome JAG officer—and I still don't want a will. But my first sergeant is still making me go to legal. What's the deal?

A: Your first sergeant is a genius and a saint. Even if you aren't concerned with the disposition of your assets following your (un)timely demise, a trip to the legal office can help smooth your transition out of this mortal coil by providing, at no cost to the service member, two types of advance medical directives: the Living Will and the Durable Power of Attorney for Medical Care.

Picture this: You have been seriously injured in a tragic accident. You are lying in the hospital unconscious, or perhaps, you are merely unresponsive. You cannot

communicate your wishes regarding any aspect of your treatment or care. If the question is whether to pull the proverbial plug, your own loved ones are usually either too emotional to do what needs to be done or, possibly, a little too quick to throw in the towel.

This is where your Advance Medical Directives come in.

"A living will is a lawful document that lays out a number of hypothetical, life-threatening situations and your wishes for treatment in each case (do not resuscitate, cease the administration of nutrients, etc.) says Senior U.S. Civilian Attorney John Matlock, Stuttgart Law Center. "This serves to either take the burden off of traumatized family members or to prevent the significantly less-traumatized from taking advantage."

A Durable Power Of Attorney for medical care places the decision-making power in the hands of a trusted loved one. Whereas the living will only covers a limited

set of hypothetical situations, the durable power of attorney allows for someone who knows you best to respond in any situation you might be in, to deal with medical professionals on your behalf.

Without any type of advance medical directive, either the doctors get to have their own way, or the cherished harmony of your beloved family relations could devolve into a protracted and widely televised legal battle over your fate, featuring frequent and unflattering shots of your unresponsive body in a hospital bed with the headline, "Legal Fees for the Family of Unprepared Service Member Now in the Tens of Thousands as Lawsuit Stretches into its Tenth Year."

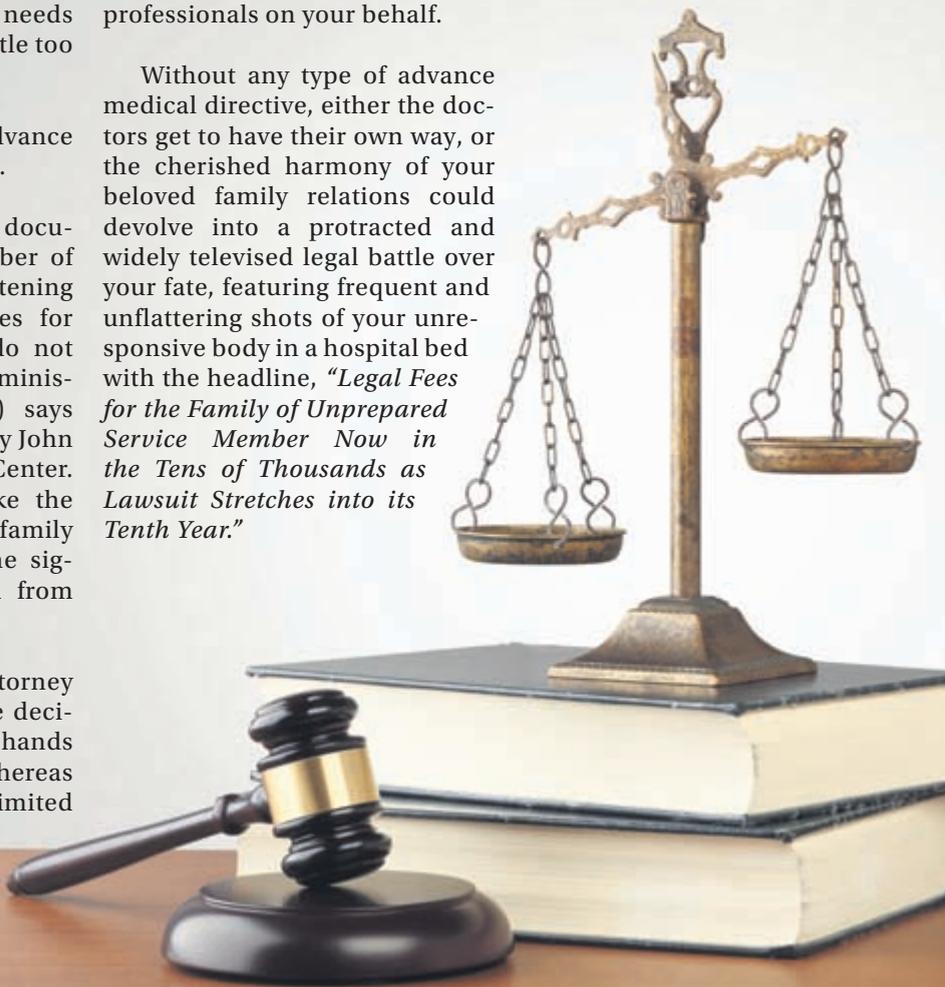


Photo by sumire8/Shutterstock.com

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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June 3-15 Exercise Saber Strike

2018

Is a long-standing U.S. Army Europe-led exercise in its eighth year. This cooperative training event is designed to enhance **#Readiness** and **#Interoperability** with allies and regional partners.



4 Host countries: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland

19 Participating allied and partner nations

18,000 Total Participants

Bridge Crossings
 Integration of **#NATO** forces from Multinational Corps and Division - Northeast

Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) Battlegroups stationed in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland

Mission Command Element

1

2nd Cavalry Regiment will convoy from Vilseck, Germany with **950+** Strikers and support vehicles participating in exercise activities along the way.

12th Combat Aviation & 1st Air Cavalry Brigades
60+ UH/HH-60 Blackhawks, CH-47 Chinooks and AH-64 Apaches will participate providing close air support and **#AirAssault** operations.

1st Armored Brigade Combat Team
45+ M1 Abrams Tanks and M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles arrive into the Port of Antwerp as part of **#AtlanticResolve** and move directly into the exercise in Poland.

Suwalki Gap

Border crossing between Poland & Lithuania

#SaberStrike

www.eur.army.mil/SaberStrike
www.dvidshub.net/feature/SaberStrike

Infographic by: Joshua L. Wick/ U.S. Army/RELEASED



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NEWS BRIEFS



Water testing continues

Testing for Legionella bacteria within the garrison began May 14 on Panzer Kaserne, followed by Patch, Robinson and Kelley Barracks, and will run for approximately three weeks. Testing will be random. Water samples are being taken from buildings with boilers of more than 400 liters and have showers. There are approximately 131 buildings identified, including family and unaccompanied housing, schools, clinics, gyms and hotels. Notification letters will be sent out one week in advance of the sampling and results are expected within 14 days after sampling. If there is an issue with a building, notification will go out to residents within a day, and flushing of the system will occur with a follow up sample taken within seven days. Results of the testing will be posted when they become available.

Get your motor running

The public website to schedule appointments at Vehicle Inspection, Panzer Kaserne, is now open, and Vehicle Registration is slated to follow in June. This is the first of many services within the garrison to make online appointments accessible without a CAC card. The current CAC website used to schedule appointments will be deleted in June. Questions about inspection appointments should still be sent to www.afsbeurope.army.mil/MaintenanceDivision/. To schedule vehicle inspection appointments, visit <https://usagstuttgartappointments.as.me/vehicleInsp>.

SOCEUR CoC

A change of command ceremony for the Special Operations Command-Europe will take place on Washington Square, Patch Barracks, at 4 p.m., June 12. In the event of rain, the ceremony will be moved into the Patch Fitness Center. The ceremony will impact parking beginning June 4, with areas of the Washington Square, fitness center and Swabian Special Events Center being blocked off. Call 430-4863 for more information about the ceremony.

Army Birthday Bash

The Stuttgart Army Ball takes place, 5 p.m., June 9, in the Sindelfingen Stadthalle. Tickets are now available

online at www.eventbee.com. Find "Stuttgart Army Ball" then select seats, meal and transportation options.

AFRAT

The first AFRICOM Required Annual Training (AFRAT) will be held in Kelley Theater Tuesday, June 12. Bring your CAC for sign-in; training will be tracked electronically instead of by manual sign-in sheets. Only attend the sessions you need to be compliant for 2018. For questions, contact the AFRICOM Program Coordinator Office at 421-3388/5042."

School's out for summer

June 14 will be the last day of school. It will also affect the back gate at Panzer Kaserne. Watch the garrison Facebook page for updates.

Retreat to marriage enrichment

CREDO Europe Africa Southwest Asia invites all service members to a marriage enrichment retreat in the Bavarian Alps, July 13-15, focusing on the relationship between spouses by integrating a compilation of wisdom from therapy, marital enrichment, and marriage and family development. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis and space is limited, so couples should sign up quickly. There is no cost. Call 626-5255 or 0039-081-565-5255 or email credo@eu.navy.mil.

Welcome Tia, adios Alvarez

The Stuttgart military community is invited to attend a Change of Responsibility, 10 a.m., June 15, at Washington Square, Patch Barracks (in the event of rain, the ceremony will take place in the Swabian Special Event Center). Command Sgt. Maj. Mariano Z. Alvarez, USAG Stuttgart, will relinquish responsibility to Command Sgt. Maj. Toese Tia Jr (see related story p.2). Immediately after the COR, a retirement ceremony for Alvarez will take place and a reception will follow at the Patch Community Chapel for Tia.

Junior officers career development

Are you a junior officer O-1 through O-3 officers of any service stationed at USAFRICOM or USEUCOM looking for additional mentorship advice and support? Find similar minds to engage for professional development, community involvement and social gatherings by attending a meeting of the Company Grade Officer Council at the Kelley Club, 4 p.m., June 22. Call 421-3870 for more information.

Run to Remember

The Memorial Run to Remember Run was started in 2008 by the chaplain for 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne). Runners take on a challenging half-marathon

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and 5K course in the local training area in tribute to fallen friends and colleagues in the Post 9/11 era. Participants are inspired by 46 names of loved ones and colleagues identified on the back of the race T-shirt. The run takes place July 14.

Mission Ready 66

The Mission Ready 66 Fitness Competition continues until July 14. Build a stronger, healthier you for whatever mission lies ahead, whether it's a deployment, an athletic feat or just to be able to keep up with the kids. Visit the Patch or Panzer Fitness Centers.

Kelley Fitness Center updates

Phase Two of the installation of the HVAC and sprinkler system in the Kelley Fitness Center continues in June. During this phase, the 24/7 unmanned access will be made available via the normal main entrance. In addition, the female locker room/showers will be closed and temporary shower modules will be available. Disruptions will be minimized as much as possible.

RSO volunteers (still) needed

The Retiree Services Office, Bldg. 2915, Rm. 122, Panzer Kaserne, is still looking to fill until volunteer positions to run the retiree council. Retiree actions will still be processed by the garrison Retirement Services program manager. If you're a community member interested in volunteering to run the Retiree Services Office or to be on the council, or if you need assistance with a retiree action, call 431-2010 or 07031-15-2130.

Apt app

The garrison's informational mobile app includes one-touch emergency contacts, quick appointment links, the duty bus schedule, things to do and more. Around 3,500 Stuttgart military community

members are already using the app, and the response has been very positive. The USAG Stuttgart app is available for Android and Apple users. Download the app in Google Play or iTunes, search "USAG Stuttgart."

BE FIT on the go!

AAFES debuted its new-and-improved-and mobile optimized-fitness pages at ShopMyExchange.com/be-fit as part of its commitment to encouraging healthy living for service members and their families. Shoppers using cellphones, tablets or other personal devices to visit the site also have a streamlined experience that allows them to view exercise videos, blogs and other resources on the go.

Showtime

"A Coarse Acting Show (The Original Plays That Go Wrong)" opens at 7:30 p.m., June 8-9 for evening performances and 3 p.m., June 10, for a matinee at the Stuttgart Theatre Center, Kelley Barracks. The German-American Acting Guild (GAAG) is intent on showing off their range of skills and have chosen four pieces that they know will display their talent. However, things just don't seem to go as planned. Reserve your seat at www.Stuttgart.armymwr.com, or call 421 - 3258 or 0711-729-3258.

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FOURTH of JULY

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

JULY 4, STARTING AT 3 P.M.
PATCH BARRACKS, HUSKY FIELD

Community **PATRIOTIC PARADE** to kick off event

CARNIVAL GAMES & FOOD including fried Oreos & bloomin' onions

LIVE PERFORMANCE by Rodney Atkins

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Dear Seniors,

Not often do we realize when something is our last.

We don't remember the last day on the playground or the day we stopped telling our parents everything, but this school year was full of lasts that will never be forgotten: The last football game, the last day with our favorite teacher, and even the last day of high school. Soon we will all pile onto a stage in wizard costumes and square hats, for the last time. Soon, the rest of our lives will begin ... but not yet.

A professor named C.S. Lewis once wrote, "There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind." If this is true, then there can only be absolutely wonderful things ahead. Senior year was full of stress, tears and a few broken doors. Looking back now, it was well worth it. I have so many wonderful memories spent around people with passions and imaginations that are larger than life.

High school was meant to teach us about academics, but instead it showed us an important life lesson - it takes a village to raise a child.

Teachers, parents and peers all shaped us into different people, teaching us how to be kind and to persevere through life's greatest struggles. This was encompassed by Gandhi in his quote, "Be the change you want to see in the world."

The imagination and talents found in these hallways will now go on to improve the world. We will all go on to do great things in our own lives. May it be benefiting the world on a global scale or making a difference in just one person's life. Everything our class does will change the world.

We will make a difference in the world, because we have seen the world. We know its most beautiful places, and we know its greatest feats.

I wish upon this year's graduates the greatest of luck and a world full of opportunity waiting to come our way. I hope you accomplish your goals in everything you tackle. Aim for your best and greatness will come. Try everything. Find your strengths and weakness and improve them.

I thank you all for being my village, shaping me into who I am today, and teaching me the only really important thing in the world, love. To end this chapter of our lives, I leave you with a quote from the High School Musical character Troy Bolton, "In the end, I guess that means we really are all in this together."

Yours Truly,



Hannah Rhoden
Senior, Class of 2018

(Editor's note: During the 2017/2018 school year, Hannah Rhoden served the garrison Public Affairs Office as a career practicum student. Additionally, she served as the SHS ROTC's command sergeant major. Rhoden, along with fellow senior Alisha Pabon, produced numerous articles and photographs used in this publication and online.)

Photo courtesy of Stuttgart High School

The 178 students of the Stuttgart High School Class of 2018 celebrate by tossing of mortarboards skyward during the taking of the official photos of their graduation. The graduation ceremony will take place at 6 p.m. in the Stuttgart Liedersalle, June 8.

About the SHS graduation

By Alaynah Luttrull

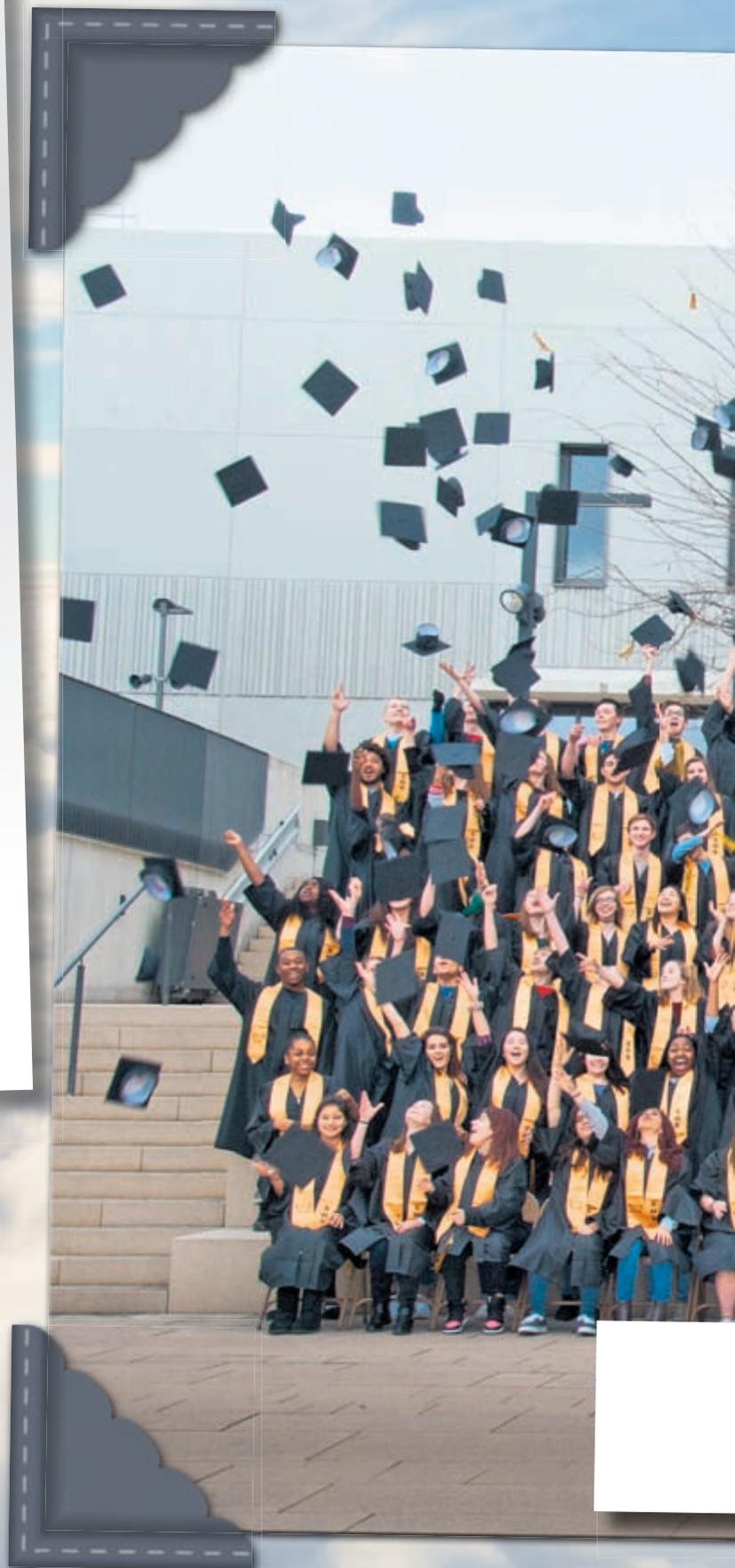
Senior and Journalist, Stuttgart High School

The 178 students of the Stuttgart High School Class of 2018 are a diverse group of students who have garnered numerous accolades.

Historically, more than 70 percent of SHS students attend a college or university. Class members have committed to attend three

international and 78 do universities. SHS students attend different college camps

"I have been working as a student for six months and by the excellence that we have at the core," said Melissa V. council administrative highly motivated, intelligent and ready to em



ating class of '18

domestic (United States) students will be entering 84 colleges in the fall.

Working with these students and have been touched by the love that emanates from their parents. Wertz, SHS guidance counselor, is an assistant. "They're kind-hearted, intelligent, and embrace the world. They

are a reflection of who we are as service members, a community and the power of education."

While most are entering campuses in the U.S., six students will study institutions abroad, including Rome, Singapore, Canada, London, Amsterdam, and Spain, while 17 students will remain local to attend the University of Maryland University College.

Some students will be enlisting in the

U.S. military; seven have enlisted in the Air Force, two into the Army, two into the Marine Corps and one into the Navy. Fourteen of the students are entering two-year programs.

Additionally, three students have academy appointments and one student is entering the Royal Military College of Canada. There were also five ROTC scholarships.

The Stuttgart Community Spouses Club

contributed more than \$80,000 in scholarships to this class. A few noteworthy scholarships earned by the graduating class are the Texas Tech University Top 25 Presidential Scholarship; the Presidential Merit Scholarship; the University of Dubuque Presidential Academic Scholarship; the Saint Anselm College Purdue Presidential Scholarship; the Nebraska Honors Scholarship; and the Regents Scholarship.



STUTTGART HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR CLASS 2018

Forming good habits through daily chores

U.S. Army Health Clinic-Stuttgart
News Release

Chores help children learn responsibility and develop independence. Chores can also be referred to as practical life skills.

Lauren Gardner, program manager and occupational therapist for the Educational and Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS), says it's never too early to start teaching a good work ethic.

"We all need to feel needed and helpful, like we are important and making a contribution that benefits the household—even children," Gardner said. "By teaching your child to help with simple household chores you are setting them up for a lifetime of being able to work hard, to get and keep a job, to be productive and to have strong relationships."

Children learn by doing and by example. Don't expect them to know how to do a chore just because you have done it in front of them before; ease them in by showing them directly how to do the chore step-by-step, and then let them help you. Once you feel they've mastered this with supervision they are ready to go. Then do chores together—everything is more fun when it is done together.

"Children crave structure and 'doing it themselves.' Many times when children are misbehaving it is because of a lack of structure and self-discipline. A great way to create some structure and to teach self-discipline is to start doing purposeful work/chores," Gardner said.

"We must remember that while childhood is a time for play, and fun it should also be filled with learning opportunities to help our children become

productive and enjoyable adults. Childhood is a training ground for the real world. By having your children participate in simple and age-appropriate chores you are helping them develop good habits," said Gardner.

Family life is where healthy habits are formed teaching your children simple daily chores is not only important for self-care and sufficiency, it allows the child to feel empowered, works on socialization and reasoning and helps develop health self-esteem.

"We are not doing our children any favors by waiting; it's never too early to start. Just remember to choose age-appropriate activities. There are numerous websites that have charts showing examples of chores and responsibilities that are appropriate for young children, said Gardner.

Daily chores dos and don'ts

- **Don't** insist on perfection.
- **Don't** jump in and do it for them.
- **Don't** assume they're too young to try. If kids can use a tablet or smart phone with ease, they can surely learn simple household chores.
- **Do** be upbeat and praise them while the chore is in progress, especially in young children, not just when it is finished, to build positive momentum.
- **Do** be specific; "clean your room" is too vague.
- **Do** use the "when/then" technique instead of micromanaging. For example, say "When you put your toys in the bin, then you can have a snack."
- **Don't** give monetary awards. We want to teach responsibility and learning to do things without a tangible reward. Your time, attention and praise are enough.
- **Don't** make chores a punishment.

For more information about this or any concerns about your young child's developmental milestones and you would like a free in-home screening, please contact EDIS at 590-1613 or 06371-9464-1613.



What's coming up next at the USO Stuttgart

June 7 – Do you have a birthday in June? Come to the USO on the first Thursday of each month at noon for the June Birthdays Celebration and cake. We'll even sing!

June 8 – Shopping on the economy in Germany can be a fun and easy experience. Join our German instructor as she takes you to several local shops in Vaihingen to purchase goods like a local would. You'll stop by a flower shop, grocery store and other shops in and near the Schwaben Galerie, and conclude at a local bakery café. Visit the USO Center to register and for more information.

June 12 – Got little ones at home and want to meet other parents and children? Join the USO for Story Time and Crafts! 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

Most new DSLR (Digital Single Lens Reflex) camera owners use very little of the potential of their cameras, often shooting in "Auto" mode. The thought of moving off Auto can be daunting! To really get creative control over your photos, you need to grasp some basic photography principles. It's not rocket science, but it is essential. This course will help you get into the more creative modes of your camera to start taking better photos. Bring your own camera

to the USO Center at 6 p.m. and see what it can do in full manual operation!

June 15 – "Moana," a family-friendly movie, will be shown at 7 p.m. in the Robinson Barracks Theater (crafts and games begin at 6:30 p.m.) Popcorn and drinks will be provided, and some lucky viewers will go home with a DVD of the movie! Guests should bring pillows, blankets and any other comfy-cozies that would make the night great. Registration required through the Eventbrite link found on USO's Facebook or website

June 19 – Photography Class – Camera Basics (see description above).

June 20 – Stop by the USO Center starting at 11 a.m. for free delicious chili cheese dogs and celebrate making it halfway through the work week. Served with chips and sweet tea while supplies last. "Hump Day Hot Dogs" takes place every Wednesday.

The USO is celebrating National Ice Cream Soda Day. Join us at 12:30 p.m. at the RB Zentrum to celebrate with us. There will be fun and smiles for all!

June 21 – Lunch is on us at 11:30 a.m. at the USO Center as we serve up pulled pork sandwiches for everyone who stops by. Sides, drinks and dessert will round out the meal.

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 through Eventbrite link found on USO Facebook page or website.

June 23 – Single and unaccompanied service members E-7 and below are invited to join us as we spend a fun-filled day at Europa Park! Sign up is free, so visit the USO to reserve your seat. Limited Availability! Learn more at the USO Center.

Welcome to Germany: Discover your home away from home with the Stuttgart Walking Tour. Come learn about the rich history of our host city. Sarah Dealy, founder and owner of "Stuttgart Steps," will personally lead us around Stuttgart and cover a myriad of interesting historical and cultural facts. Reserve your spot on this free tour by stopping by the USO Center

Looking for a new hobby, or improving one that you already enjoy? Join the knitting class at 10 a.m. This class will expand on basic knitting processes and focus on basic increase/decrease, yarn over and pattern reading. You don't need to be an advanced knitter to participate, but just have basic knitting ability. In this four-hour class you will make your own project that you will get to take home with you. Ages 12 and over only, please.

June 26 – Story and Craft Time and Photography Class (see descriptions above.)

June 27 – The Book Club meets at 9 a.m. (check with the USO Center for location) to discover Germany's rich culture in the USO's book club, featuring books by German authors, about German culture, or set in Germany. These mornings are relaxed and fun—join in at any time This month's selection is "The World's Worst Mothers" by Sabine Ludwig. The first five to register to attend will receive the book for free.

Meet up with your family at 4:30 p.m. in the USO Center after work and celebrate summer. Delicious hot fudge sundaes will be served with all the toppings. Fun and free for all ages.

June 28 – Language Meetup (see description above)

Also, a basic clipper and haircutting class offered at 3:30 p.m. by USO Stuttgart will show you how to give a great, cheap haircut without having to go anywhere. Our volunteer instructor Annette will teach you the basics on using clippers and scissors to perform a simple haircut or trim for your children, friends or family members. Annette is a licensed hairdresser from North Carolina with over 25 years' experience in cutting hair. This class will be offered monthly at the USO Center and we offer space for both participants and those who would want to watch and learn.



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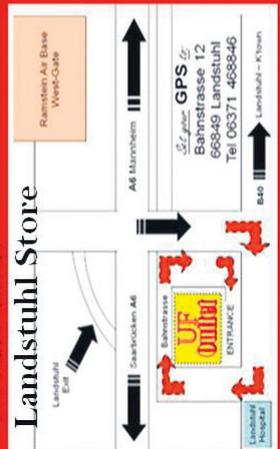
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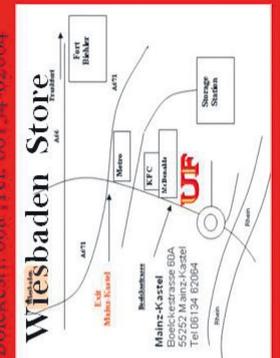
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Stuttgart community members elected to PTA Executive Board

By John Reese
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The Stuttgart military community will be well-represented on the 2018-2019 European PTA Board of Directors.

The newly-elected officers were installed as the 2018-2019 Executive Board of the European Parent Teacher Association during the 2018 EPTA Awards Banquet at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch on May 19.

The incoming Executive Board is composed of President Kristin Deluca (Stuttgart); President-Elect Heather Chatham (Aviano); Vice President for Legislation Sabrina Wilson (Stuttgart); Secretary Beth Gregorio (Stuttgart); Treasurer Lilith Jarvis (Ramstein); and Director of Membership and Communications Kris Garst (Grafenwoehr).

The 2018-2019 European PTA Board of Directors also includes several members of the Stuttgart community, including Bylaws Chair Katie Lickteig; Convention Co-Chair Sabrina Wilson; Diversity and Family Engagement Chair Shari Hill; Historian L.A. Martin; Special Needs Chair Holly Luckritz; and Ways and Means Chair Melissa Hilliard. Over the next year, these volunteer leaders will support and represent families and schools throughout DoDEA-Europe.

European PTA is a state-level affiliate of the National Parent Teacher Association that provides strong leadership support to local PTA units. It works in cooperation with Department of Defense Education Activity and



Photo courtesy of PTA

The assembled participants at the 2018 European PTA Awards Banquet at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, May 19.

DoDEA-Europe at all levels, and advocates on behalf of military children and for all children. The work of the European Parent Teacher Association continues to be instrumental to enhancing the quality of life for military children overseas.

Along with the National PTA, the European PTA aim

is to help make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate

for all children. For more information on European PTA, please visit the EPTA website at <http://EuropeanPTA.org>.

RBES students walk 70 years back in time



Photo by Judi Hurston

The Robinson Barracks Elementary School 5th grade classes recently went with their teachers, Judi Hurston and Galen Nagel, on a field trip to explore World War II history in Esslingen. The students had an interesting walking tour of the town, visited a Jewish cemetery and explored. They also got to learn about how to use public transportation from RB to Esslingen.

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Add security considerations to your summer travels

By Mike Pons
USAG Stuttgart Antiterrorism Office

Traveling in Europe is fairly easy and somewhat affordable. However, there are restrictions for travel to certain European countries. As the summer months begin, planning to travel can be a tedious task seeking a good price, the right location and importantly, a safe and secure environment.

Prior to travel

We all love sightseeing in Europe, but first there are many inherent tasks before getting to our destinations to enjoy ourselves.

Department of Defense personnel traveling in, from or through the U.S. European Command area of responsibility must comply with the Foreign Clearance Guide for unofficial travel requirements, to include documents and training.

Also, the U.S. Department of State (DOS) provides open source information and travel advisories for U.S. personnel for awareness. DOD elements and personnel will follow local and DOS advisories and instructions.

The DOS' Smart Traveler Program (STEP) provides a free service to U.S. nationals who are traveling to or living in a foreign country. Enrollment allows the individual to record information



Graphic provided by USAG Stuttgart Antiterrorism Office

about an upcoming trip abroad the DOS can use to assist you in case of an emergency. The Smart Traveler app is also available for free from the Apple Store or Google Play Store. It is mandatory for DOD military and civilian personnel, sponsored contractors and family members to enroll in STEP and input their travels.

Everyone must avoid taking unnecessary risks and maintain a high level of situational awareness. Monitor local news outlets, AFN and other venues to remain aware of rapid changes in the security environment. Avoid wearing

clothing that conveys affiliation to DOD, such as backpacks, insignias or other accessories. Have a plan for emergency evacuation, identify rally points and places to take cover away from the threat.

While traveling

Stay current with media coverage of local events, be aware of your surroundings at all times, and keep in regular contact with their units, family members, and friends while traveling throughout Europe.

Social media can be a rich source

Online security links

Know suspicious activity report procedures or numbers for the local law enforcement or report through iReport app, available for free from the Apple Store or Google Play Store or the iWatch website at www.eur.army.mil/iWatch/default.htm.

Before you travel, visit www.fcg.pentagon.mil and www.state.gov for the latest advisories, and enroll in STEP at <https://step.state.gov/step>.

of updated, real-time information to unwanted actors. The exploitation of individual geo-location information, organizational or DOD affiliation can lead to unwelcomed attention. Service members and civilians should refrain from posting OPSEC-sensitive information concerning their travel plans to social media sites, and review individual social media security settings for online profiles to guarantee they are not overly revealing.

After travel

Report any suspicious activity (casual questioning or pictures) to your security manager or local MI Field Office. Happy travels and a safe summer!

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Stuttgart earns 2018 Best Musical and more at ‘Toppers’

By Jacob Corbin
USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

Each year the Tournament of Plays, or “Toppers,” recognizes the best military community theater programs in Europe, and this year’s was no different.

For this competition, judges attended 17 show productions at 10 community theaters across Installation Management Command-Europe and U.S. Air Forces in Europe, giving 50 awards at the gala event held April 28 at U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden’s Clay Kaserne. The Stuttgart Theatre Center on Kelley Barracks took home eight awards.

“It’s wonderful to see all the time and talent and work that our volunteers put in being appreciated in this way,” said Richard Roberts, artistic director. “I am especially proud of the ‘Best Ensemble in a Musical’ award because that shows that they really worked together on this. Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill

was such a passion piece for everyone involved that getting the awards was just icing on an already delicious cake.”

During the event, U.S. Army Europe Entertainment presented a ceremonial check for \$8,826,911.70 to represent the 3,812 volunteers and their contribution of 365,655 hours to military community theater in Europe.

“This generous donation of time delivers an important gift to our community members,” said Michael Formica, director, IMCOM-Europe. “Whether you participated on a backstage crew, as a designer, technician, usher, performer, director or musician — you truly made a difference.”

Heidi M. Malarchik, deputy to the garrison commander, USAG Stuttgart, attended the ceremony and shared her congratulations to the “awesome” community theater volunteers for a great season.

“Two plays performed in the community, ‘Berlin



Photo by Larry Reilly, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The cast of the Stuttgart Theatre Center's “Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill” perform a song from the show. “Berlin” won Best Musical at the 2018 Toppers Awards, April 28.

to Broadway’ and ‘The Taming of the Shrew’ won a myriad of awards including Best Ensemble in a Musical and the 2018 Best Musical,” Malarchik said. “A special thanks to Richard Roberts and Alan Buxkemper, our garrison professionals, for their passion to the craft

and dedicating their time and talents to everyone who contributes to our community theater program.”

(Editor’s note: Holly DeCarlo-White and Bardia Khajenoori, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs, contributed to this article.)



Photo by Larry Reilly, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Actors perform in “Berlin to Broadway.”

“And the winners are ...”

The Stuttgart Theatre Center received the following awards at this year’s TOPPERS ceremony:

Best Set Design for a Musical

Richard Roberts. “Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill”

Best Choreography

Richard Roberts. “Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill”

Best Orchestra or Musical Accompaniment

“Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill”

Best Director of a Musical

Richard Roberts “Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill”

Best Military Actress in a Play

Brandon Kaye Thomas (Katharina) “The Taming of the Shrew”

Best Ensemble for a Musical

“Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill”

Best Military Performance in a Musical

Robert Taylor (Ensemble) “Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill”

Best Musical

“Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill”

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Lighten your load of bitterness

By Ch. (Col.) Michael T. Klein
 Command Chaplain
 United States Africa Command

In May of 1986, my Long Range Surveillance (LRS) unit jumped into Camp Atterbury, Indiana, for our two-week annual training.

One of the mantras in our organization was "pack light-freeze at night," and as we still experienced schizophrenic weather transitions from winter to spring, I had all the snivel gear I needed.

Come what may, I would not freeze to death on the "movement to daylight" (all night) patrols

through the woods. In reality, I had so much gear stuffed in my ruck, you couldn't squeeze a dime between my t-shirts and socks ... or so I thought.

On the drop zone, our S-4 (supply) drove up in a truck loaded with pyro. Each six man LRS Recon team was getting an extra 200 pounds of "shtuff" to carry: grenade simulators, artillery simulators, smoke canisters, star clusters, etc. Needless to say, my pack gained an extra 40 pounds and somehow I managed to squeeze it all in.

Do you know how much pyro

we blew/expended across the two week field problem? None! We lugged around all that extra weight needlessly, just in case.

That's actually how our live are when we encumber anger, bitterness, and unforgiveness. Matthew 6:14-15 states, "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

Harboring anger, bitterness, and unforgiveness is like lugging a colossal ruck sack needlessly. Someone also likened a demeanor

of bitterness and unforgiveness to drinking poison and hoping the other person dies.

Why don't you lighten your load? If someone offended you or committed some egregious act, why not confront them and give them the opportunity to make it right? If they don't apologize or see the error of their ways, is it really your problem? Take this time to offload some extra stress, anger, or frictions that's wearing on your mental, physical and spiritual health.

Time to lighten your load . . .

Workers wanted for watch care

The Religious Support Office is hiring watch care workers for chapel programs. Individuals must have experience working with infants and toddlers. Applicants must be willing to work weekends and holidays, but the hours are flexible. Background check is required. Positions are open for all religious services on Panzer Kaserne, and Patch and Robinson Barracks.

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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Lock, U.S. Air Force

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'Sextortion' scams continue to occur don't give into scammer's demands

U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command
News Release

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command's Computer Crime Investigative Unit (CCIU) continues to caution the Army community to be on the lookout for all types of "sextortion scams" where criminals will use any dishonest method to make contact with potential victims and then attempt to blackmail them.

"To avoid falling prey to a sextortionist, never send compromising photos or videos of yourself to anyone, whether you know them or think you know them," said Special Agent Daniel Andrews, director of CCIU. "Turn off your electronic devices and physically block web cameras when you are not using them."

Officials describe "sextortion scams" as cyber sexual extortion where perpetrators



conduct schemes that leverage online sexual acts for financial gain or other forms of blackmail.

In addition, when using a legitimate online dating site, victims are more apt to provide personal information and or participate in online "compromising acts;" however, CID officials are warning the Army community to be very cautious of their online communications activity and not share intimate, personal information with strangers or people you have never met in person.

"These criminals will try to get unsuspecting service members to engage in online sexual activities and then demand money or favors in exchange for not publicizing potentially embarrassing information or turning them over to law enforcement," Andrews said.

See Sextortion, p.22

What to do if you're the victim of sextortion

- DO preserve whatever information you have from the scammer(s), such as social networking profile, email accounts used, where money was directed to be sent, etc.
- DO notify CCIU at usarmy.cciuintel@mail.mil to report being a victim if you are a service member or an Army civilian employee. If you are not associated with the military, report the crime to your local police department, DHS Homeland Security Investigations at Assistance.Victim@ice.dhs.gov, or the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.

Victims can seek information on rights and assistance from:

- ArmyVictim/Witness Liaison Program - VWL will assist victim in contacting agencies or individuals responsible for providing necessary services and relief.
- Command Chaplains.
- Family Advocacy Center/Army Community Service.
- If victims are not eligible for military services, or where military services are not available, the VWL can provide liaison assistance in seeking any available nonmilitary services within the civilian community.

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 CCIU website at www.cid.army.mil/cciu-advisories.html.



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SGAWC wanders the trails of France

Stuttgart German-American Wandering Club News Release

The Stuttgart German-American Wandering Club's trip coordinators, Hans and Sylvia Vogt, outdid themselves with a fantastic trip to Strasbourg and Barr, a lovely and historic part of Alsace, France, May 5-6.

The 24 members and guests boarded the Train à Grande Vitesse in downtown Stuttgart and enjoyed snacks and beverages during a ride to Strasbourg that took just over an hour. Next, they transferred to a regional train and by mid-morning they'd arrived in the ancient town of Barr, nestled in the Vosges Mountains. The town has a Stuttgart connection, since it was liberated on Nov. 28, 1944, by Gen. Alexander "Sandy" Patch, for whom Patch Barracks is named.

The wanderers met their local guide, Michele, at a nearby pastry shop, where they sampled local confections and purchased start cards for the 11 km permanent walk. Soon they were winding thru narrow streets and then through the vineyards that stretched down to town.

The club hiked up a series of hills and walked on level paths in a deep woods. Occasionally, they caught a glimpse of castle ruins in the distance. One section of trail was blocked by trees left by logging operations, so they had to climb up and around the barrier.

Near the end, they visited a forest restaurant where they ate fresh, hot Quiche Lorraine and presented guide Michele with thank-you gifts. Afterwards, the group returned to town for a wine tasting. After viewing the hand-dug wine cellars, and sampling the wines, they returned to the hotel for an authentic



Photo by Stuttgart German-American Wandering Club

SGAWC members and guests enjoy a pastry at the walk start point before beginning their Volksmarch.

Alsatian dinner with wurst, sauerkraut and all of the trimmings.

The next day they returned to Strasbourg, and took an interesting

and long tour of the old city. With a guide who showed them every attraction. The wanderers had a few hours of free time to enjoy a

leisurely lunch in a cafe along the river or to browse cute shops, and then returned to Stuttgart in time for dinner.

Wander with the Stuttgart German-American Wandering Club

Adventure with the club on these upcoming Volksmarches

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- **16-17:** Mühlacker-Enzberg, Wertheim-Dörlesberg, Karlsruhe
- **24:** Ittlingen
- **30 and July 1:** Malsch

JULY

- **1:** Lichtenwald
- **7-8:** Schömberg, Neuhausen-Holzheim /
- **14-15:** Dürrn, Göschweiler
- **21-22:** Schorndorf-Weiler, Ebhausen-Rotfelden, Sinsheim-Reihen

There are several trips each year, the club's website for more information, to include flyers, driving directions and public transport information. Listen to the SGAWC on AFN, Thursdays, 7-8 a.m., and visit them at www.sgawc.org.



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In the six months since the Army & Air Force Exchange Service officially expanded online shopping privileges to all honorably discharged veterans, more than 50,000 former service members have used the new benefit, saving an average of 20 percent off MSRP and avoiding a total of \$3 million in sales tax so far.

“With the national average sales tax being 8.5 percent, the veterans online shopping benefit offers significant savings to all who raised their right hand and took an oath to defend our nation—no matter how long they served,” said Exchange Director and CEO Tom Shull, a Vietnam-era Army veteran who worked tirelessly to secure the change in Department of Defense policy after joining the Exchange in 2012. “This benefit is a modest way to thank all who have served and welcome them home.”

The veterans online shopping benefit, which launched on Veterans Day 2017, marked the first expansion of military exchange privileges since 1990.

Veterans have used their new benefit to order nearly 500,000 items at ShopMyExchange.com-tax-free.

Shopping the Exchange online reconnects veterans with their military community, allowing them to remain Soldiers and Airmen for life.

Dan Sacco, a Vietnam veteran who lives in Trumbull, Conn., had been without an Exchange benefit for nearly 50 years after leaving the Army in 1970. When he shops with ShopMyExchange.com, he knows he is making a difference to service members and their families.

“This is an incredible benefit to offer,” said Sacco, who shopped for electronics, clothing, gifts and more. “There’s no taxes, no shipping charges with a Military Star card, and it supports the military. It’s better than Amazon. There’s

no negative.”

Every purchase veterans make online improves life for service members and their families as 100 percent of Exchange earnings support programs including military uniforms at cost; school lunches below cost for Warfighters’ children overseas; Child Development Centers; Youth Programs; Fitness Centers; and career opportunities for spouses, veterans and Wounded Warriors. In the last decade years, the Exchange has distributed more than \$2.4 billion to critical military Quality-of-Life programs.

Become eligible to shop online

To verify eligibility and begin shopping, veterans can visit ShopMyExchange.com/veterans or VetVerify.org.





Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Billy Ho, U.S. Navy

In the six months since AAFES officially expanded online shopping privileges to all honorably discharged veterans, more than 50,000 former service members have used the new benefit.

Sextortion

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Once the Soldier sends a compromising photo or participates in a video chat, the perpetrator threatens to send those images to the Soldier’s command, family, and friends unless “ransom money” is paid, according to CCIU officials. One recent scam is where the criminal will claim that the Soldier sent sexual images to a minor, who has now become the alleged victim, and threaten to report the Soldier to law enforcement unless a monetary fee is paid.

“If you meet a person on a legitimate online dating site there is very little chance that you are actually

communicating with an underage person,” Andrews said. “It is therefore very unlikely that you sent or received child pornography or provided your images/videos to a minor. If you met someone online who later claims to be underage you should immediately cease all communications with that person and notify Army CID.”

Sextortion

“It is important to also keep in mind that law enforcement, to include Army CID, will never agree not take legal action if you agree to pay [ransom] money to the alleged victim or to the alleged victim’s family,” he said. “If law enforcement

gets involved early on, there are investigative steps that may help identify the perpetrators responsible for victimizing Army personnel.”

Another way that the criminals attempt to extort money is to claim that they are a lawyer working on behalf of the alleged victim. The scammer will request payments are made for things such as counseling for the alleged victim and to replace electronic devices that now contain child pornography. If these demands are not met the person alleging to be the lawyer threatens to report the incident to law enforcement.

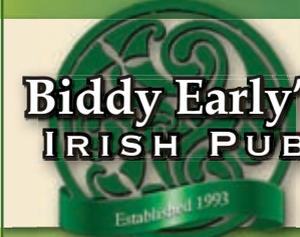
Andrews said legitimate organizations will not contact you and ask

for money in lieu of reporting you to law enforcement and typically law enforcement will not attempt to make contact with you over the phone. If you are contacted via telephone, always request validating information such as an agency email address and offer to meet in person at a law enforcement facility before proceeding with giving out your personal information.

“Stop communication immediately with these individuals and do not send money because it will not stop the criminal from demanding more money from you,” CCIU officials said. “CCIU is aware of instances where scammers threatened to release videos unless a second or even a third payment is made.”

Unfortunately, these incidents continue to occur on the internet across the globe, and sextortion victims are encouraged to seek the assistance of law enforcement. Army CID agents say they can help if you find yourself in any of these types of predicaments.

“Victims are at risk of further exploitation, that can include demands for additional payments, more sexual images, sensitive military information, or access to U.S. Army systems and facilities, so early notification to law enforcement is important,” CID agents emphasized.



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Runners young and old take the Cobblestone Classic challenge

Story and photos by
Larry Reilly
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Although the weather forecast called for thunder storms at race time, nearly 250 community members showed up for the start of the 15th Annual Cobblestone Classic, June 2.

The runners benefited from storm's no show and the course route being switched around.

"The Cobblestone Classic has historically started at Patch Barracks Husky Field and finished outside the main gate of Panzer Kaserne. However, this year the course was reversed and the race finished at the CYS Patch Hub parking lot," said Felicia Hanes, Family & MWR Fitness Coordinator. "For many of the runner's it was a nice change that reflected in how they ran the course."

"We really liked the change in direction," said Bree Washburn. "Our times were much better and it seems to be a much better

course to run."

Geoff and Bree Washburn finished first place overall in the men's and women's categories with a time of 27:43 and 32:21 respectively.

The veteran running duo finished a strong two minutes ahead of the second place finishers, but the youth notice was served when the second place male runner was 8th grader Landon McMinimy, 29:30, and the second place female runner was 9th grader, McKinley "Micki" Fielding, 34:25.

Only seconds behind McMinimy, was third place male winner, Alex Sprague 29:30, and Kristin Gary took the third place female title with a time of 34:40.

The three-member team, "The X-men," consisting of Ray Brown, Max Tortorelli, and Hendrix Diaz-Veale took the team title with an average time of 32:51.

The Cobblestone Classic may bring out the competitive spirit in many of the runners, but for

others, it's an opportunity to do something the entire family can enjoy.

"We participate as a family in the "Cobblestone Classic", the "Run to Remember" and all the fun runs that the Family and MWR offer," said Marestella Watson, whose husband, Gene, daughter Asia and son, Zack have a vast collection of T-shirts and hats from all the races they have run as a family.

"We enjoy the togetherness the races offer us and yes, we do compete to see who is fastest," said Gene Watson, who confessed that Marestella took the family title on this day. "We are looking forward to running in the upcoming 'Run to Remember' race."

"This year's race was very interesting when we reverse the direction of the race, and we look forward to mixing up the routes in future races," Hanes said. "Our next race, the 'Run to Remember,' will be held on July 14 starting at the Panzer Kaserne parade field."



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