



## Greatest Show on Earth, KidZ Only flea market featured at 2019 CYS Spring Fest

Children roar with approval as Andre the Clown successfully gets eight plates simultaneously spinning.

Story and photos by John Reese  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The CYS circus was in town. Specifically, the Mertz & Pilini Circus and Stuttgart military community children put on a show inside the Patch Fitness Center, entertaining hundreds of kids of all ages at the USAG Stuttgart Child Youth Services Spring Fest, April 27.

"Today is the culmination of all of our Month of the Military Child celebration and Child Abuse Prevention Month activities. We themed it 'The Greatest Show, and we're featuring some of our SKIES kids performing, because the theme of the s Month of the Military Child this year is 'Military Kids Can,'" said Doug Barnes, Outreach Director, CYS. "We show off what our kids can do. The Mertz & Pilini Circus provides the professional performance and then we enhance it with our own kids."

The show went on outside in The Hub parking lot as well at the "For KidZ

Only!" flea market, a swap meet exclusively for children's items. Both the circus-themed spring fest and the flea market were originally scheduled to be outdoors. However, the CYS event, which called for a large circus tent and big inflatables to be set up on Husky Field, was moved indoors due to a weather forecast of high winds and rain that didn't materialize.

"We were supposed to be outside and have a big 55' bigtop, which would've been the pinnacle of the whole thing, but because of the weather we moved inside," Barnes said. "We seemed to have accommodated it really well. The kids are having a good time, everything fit inside except for the bigtop."

Save for a few intermittent scattered drops that did little to dampen the spirit and sales at the flea market, the Saturday turned out to be a tad chilly but otherwise a nice day.

"I think [CYS] is a great organization

for all of their support. I really appreciate that," said Annie Lamp, one of the flea market participants. "They do a great job, these people, and I'm very thankful as a family person with kids."

Family & MWR staff members worked inside and outside, ensuring sellers, buyers and sponsors were all enjoying themselves.

"We're braving the elements trying to sell all of these cool, colorful children's things," said Marth Povich, FMWR event manager. "If we didn't plan anything based on the weather, we wouldn't be doing anything. I think we're pretty resilient out here; these kids are having fun."

As showtime approached, children gathered in the seats and clapped along to circus music in anticipation.

The highlight of the circus' two performances was the old-school spinning plates routine, familiar to parents while new and thrilling for children. Ringmaster Thomas Mertz didn't need

to coax the audience to cry out warnings to Andre the Clown when a plate seemed about to fall. The kids really enjoyed it, interacting with the act in howls of delight. Other magic tricks and clowning around kept the show lively and entertaining.

Between acts, children participating in CYS SKIES programs took to the stage in a variety of singing and dancing performances, such as Nathan Harris on guitar singing Van Morrison's 1967 hit "Brown-eyed Girl," with a big rock star finish, and assorted ballerinas and modern dancers. Complimentary cotton candy and popcorn (regular and kettlecorn!), sustained the high energy level of community members.

Barnes said he and the rest of the CYS team enjoyed seeing the happiness of so many children.

"It gives us a lot of satisfaction. We're giving back to the community," Barnes said. "We're doing what we're supposed to be doing."

## Stuttgart honors 2018 community volunteers with ceremony, luau

Story and photo by  
Holly DeCarlo-White  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The Army-wide Volunteer Appreciation Week concluded in Stuttgart with a Volunteer Recognition Ceremony and Hawaiian-themed ice cream social at the Patch Community Club, April 25.

The annual ceremony honored all registered volunteers across the Stuttgart military community while also awarding individual nominees in six "Volunteer of the Year" categories. A panel of judges brought together by ACS determines the winners based on responsibility, impact, contributions, and character.

Awardees were Keona Kaneshiro, Youth; Rebecca Miller, Civilian; Sgt. Corbett Lowder, Military; Ronald Taubitz, Senior (age 55 and up); Sabrina Wilson, Spouse; and RB Zentrum, Team. The Team Volunteer award is a new category this year.

"The Volunteer Team category was added based on a recommendation during one of our quarterly Volunteer Advisory Council meetings. The Council felt it was important to recognize a team because so much volunteer work is done as a group," said Charlene J. Schuler, ACS volunteer coordinator. "Rather than nominating five individuals for doing similar work, those five could be nominated as an actual team."

Top contributing volunteers also received the Commander's Volunteer Award of Excellence in recognition of their service of more than 1,000 hours in 2018. Recipients were Jennie Baumbach, Nathan Dehnke, Gudrun Kaper, Sabrina Loviner, Dawn Reynolds Olson and Sabrina Wilson.

According to Schuler, a total of 453 registered volunteers performed 61,756.90 hours of registered service in the calendar year 2018. The national civic organization Independent Sector calculates the value of each volunteer



Command Sgt. Maj. Toesa Tia accepts a giant check representing the worth of the garrison volunteer's time, April 25.

hour at \$25.43—an estimated total cost savings of \$1,577,477.97 for the garrison. Kathryn McNeely, deputy to the garrison commander, and USAG Stuttgart Command Sgt. Maj. Toese Tia were presented with a symbolic check in this amount to display Stuttgart's volunteer's total contributions.

"Volunteers understand that through service they help create new visions and dreams," McNeely said.

"They change this community for the better each and every day... If it were not for volunteers, many programs and services needed for family wellness could not be provided. In helping others, volunteers lead by example, and leave a legacy of love and service to the children of tomorrow."

Read the full story at [www.StuttgartCitizen.com](http://www.StuttgartCitizen.com).

# May is National Military Appreciation Month

Public Affairs  
USAG Stuttgart

During May, National Military Appreciation Month recognizes and celebrates the contributions of the patriotic men and women who are currently serving or have served in the U.S. armed forces.

Legislation introduced in 1999 by Sen. John McCain designated May the month for Americans to recognize the sacrifices and accomplishments of service members.

**Observances Loyalty Day, May 1:** A day set aside for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States and to reflect

on the proud heritage of our American freedom.

**Public Service Recognition Week, May 5–11:** A time set aside to honor the men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees and ensure that our government is the best in the world.

**VE Day, May 8:** In 1945, this is the day when Germans throughout Europe unconditionally surrendered to the Allies. This day marked the end of World War II in Europe.

**Military Spouse Appreciation Day, May 10:** Traditionally set for the Friday before Mother's Day, it's a day to honor military spouses with appropriate ceremonies and activities, and to recognize the important role military families play in keeping our armed forces strong and our country safe.

**Armed Forces Day, May 18:** Celebrated annually on the third Saturday in May, this day honors everyone serving in the U.S. Military branches; Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy. There is also Armed Forces Week which typically leads up to Armed Forces Day, although it is not an official observance, many activities are planned nonetheless during the week.

**Memorial Day, May 27:** A remembrance observed annually on the last Monday in May to commemorate the men and women who died while in military service.

Members of the Stuttgart military community may visit the garrison's Army Community Service for ways to help.

*(Editor's note: Some of the 2019 NMAM information was provided by Military Benefits.info.)*



Joint service color guard photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs.

## Army G-4 offers tips to prepare for peak moving season

By U.S. Army G-4

WASHINGTON — Up to 60,000 household goods shipments for Soldiers, civilians and family members are expected to be moved this summer, and U.S. Army Logistics, HQDA G-4, is providing some tips to help make your move less stressful.

Peak season for Permanent Change of Station begins May 15 and runs through Aug 31, with the busiest weeks being May 15 through July 4.

### Get moving

Service members may contact the 405th AFSB-LRC by calling 431-3338 to request the transportation worksheet to get the PCS process started. Alternately, send an email to [usarmy.stuttgart.405-afsb-lrc.list.pppo@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.stuttgart.405-afsb-lrc.list.pppo@mail.mil).

Soldiers, civilians and families should avoid moving around the holidays and during the last week of May and June, if possible. Avoiding this timeframe will help prevent late pickups and changes to deliveries.

Advanced planning and preparation is key to a successful move. Upon receipt of orders, Soldiers should immediately create an account or login into Defense Personal Property System, via [www.move.mil](http://www.move.mil); upload orders and complete all shipment applications for the move.

The next step is to contact or visit the transportation office to ensure all preparatory steps were successful. By getting to the transportation office quickly, customers will have a better chance of scheduling the move convenient for them. Scheduling movers is done on a first come, first serve basis and during the peak season, there may be limited availability of packing and shipping dates.

After logging in or creating an

account, service members can view customer satisfaction scores for moving companies.

### On the day of the move, do the following:

- Refrain from scheduling other activities during moving days, as the packing and moving process can take the entire day. Make it your priority.
- Monitor how packers and movers are performing. If you have a question, call the transportation office. The Army is working to improve the HHG movement process by increasing the number of quality assurance inspections.
- Save the contact information for the moving company and quality assurance inspectors.
- Obtain a copy of the inventory and make sure to identify and annotate high-value items.
- A 24/7 U.S. Transportation Command toll free hotline will be operational and published in May for

Soldier and Family HHG problem resolution.

Additional information and detailed tips can be found in "It's Your Move" located at [www.move.mil](http://www.move.mil).

*(Editor's note: Read more about the PCS process at [www.stuttgartcitizen.com](http://www.stuttgartcitizen.com).)*



Courtesy photo

The Citizen

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Photos of Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel by retired Navy Command Master Chief Joe Holder, USAG Stuttgart

Luminaries glow atop grave markers at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial, France, the largest American cemetery in Europe, Sept. 23, 2018, during ceremonies commemorating the end of World War I. Some 14,000 Americans are interred at Meuse-Argonne.

# Remembering the fallen on Memorial Day

Public Affairs  
USAG Stuttgart

Memorial Day represents a day of national awareness and reverence, honoring the military men and women who gave their lives in defense of the nation and its values. It honors fallen service members while Veterans Day is an opportunity for Americans to publicly recognize living military veterans.

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War Soldiers and a day to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan, commander-in-chief, Grand Army of the Republic,

proclaimed May 30 as Decoration Day by General Order No. 11.

The Uniform Monday Holiday Act moved Memorial Day from May 30 to the last Monday in May. The law took effect in 1971 at the federal level. In 2000, Congress established the National Moment of Remembrance on Memorial Day.

### What has the Army done/ is doing?

The Army honors, remembers, and recognizes the ultimate sacrifice made by the fallen service members. The Army will join the nation in observing Memorial Day by participating in and hosting remembrance ceremonies, pausing for a moment of silence, visiting memorials, and placing American flags at gravesites.

Known as "Flags-In," Soldiers from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) place small American flags at every grave marker at Arlington National Cemetery before Memorial Day and remove them the day after.

### What continued efforts does the Army have planned?

The Army will continue to care for survivors and families of the fallen heroes, as the nation owes them a debt of eternal gratitude. The Army is committed to providing ongoing support to surviving family members. Survivor Outreach Services provides supportive counseling, financial education, benefits coordination, and support groups for family members at the garrison and surrounding areas.

### Why is this important to the Army?

The Army honors the memory of those who served before and vows to carry on the legacy of the excellence of American Soldiers.

Memorial Day is a call for service members and the nation to remember, recognize and honor the ultimate sacrifice made by the fallen. It is an opportunity to remember their lives, their courage, their legacy and their service. Memorial Day is a time for those in uniform to reaffirm their commitment to selfless service.

*(Editor's note: Information provided by the Army's Office of Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management.)*

The poem "In Flanders Fields," by John McCrae, was written by the Canadian officer during the dark days of World War I and is frequently associated with the U.S. Memorial Day. McCrae wrote the poem while viewing the grave of a friend killed in battle. Poppies have become a familiar sight with veterans organizations at Memorial Day and Veterans Day because of the poem. The flowers, as seen by McCrae, were one of the first plants to grow on the scarred battlefields of Flanders.



Dr. (Lt. Col.) John Alexander McCrae, Canadian Expeditionary Force, World War I (1872-1918)

### In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies grow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

## Observing Memorial Day at USAG Stuttgart

The garrison extends a cordial invitation to members of the Stuttgart military community to attend a Memorial Day observance on Washington Square, Patch Barracks, at 11 a.m., Monday, May 27. The guest speaker will be Fleet Master Chief Crispian D. Addington, senior enlisted leader, U.S. European Command.

Memorial Day is one of 10 federal holidays recognized nationwide by the U.S. Government. All non-essential federal government offices are closed on Memorial Day, and all federal employees are paid even if they receive the day off. Many private-sector employees will also receive paid time off or special holiday pay on Memorial Day.

Memorial Day is dedicated to the memory of all U.S. armed forces who have died while serving their country. Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day. It is celebrated every last Monday of May, and has been a federal holiday since 1967.

Source: [FederalPay.org](http://FederalPay.org)



Soldiers wearing World War I "Doughboy" uniforms of the American Expeditionary Force form a color guard for the centennial commemoration of the St. Mihiel offensive, held at the Saint-Mihiel American Cemetery near Verdun, France, Sept. 22, 2018. The cemetery is the final resting place of 4,153 Americans.

# Community reminded to properly dispose of refuse

By Holly DeCarlo-White  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The garrison Refuse and Recycle Branch urges community members to contact the Installation Coordinators to assist in disposal or collection of bulk or hazardous items.

As the clock sprang forward, PCS (permanent change of station) season and spring cleaning continue to be in full swing. The Directorate of Public Works reported several incidents on each installation where people dumped items improperly in trash receptacles such as doors, lamps, bulk canned goods, motor oil, batteries, metal materials, generators—even hot charcoal and ash from grills—causing major safety concerns, as well as fines from German authorities.

The color coded bins inside the trash islands on post are labeled with what each container can hold.

“Leaving these items outside of the bins would be better,” said Katia Pedrotti, Refuse & Recycling Branch chief, USAG Stuttgart DPW (except for paper or cardboard boxes where materials get wet from the rain and too heavy

to collect). “I often get called because the paper containers are overflowing.”

Pedrotti said the paper recycling bins overflow often due to boxes not being broken down before being thrown inside.

“When there is trash in the containers for paper and plastic, the whole load of the truck is declared as trash,” Pedrotti said.

A rather dangerous example recently occurred on Panzer Kaserne near Bldg. 2918; some kind of an acid material, likely from a battery, began to fume and caught fire.

“The team that collected the trash noticed some bags smoking and were able, with the help of the Panzer Installation Coordinator, to extinguish the fire and fumes, but some bags with hazard material ended inside the truck,” Pedrotti explained.

The truck also began to fume, and had to be rerouted to a safe location to sort the materials by hand to find and extinguish the cause. This incident is one of many that can create a serious and harmful situation for the driver and fellow refuse personnel.

“This potentially also damages the truck, which incurs unnecessary costs to the garrison,” Pedrotti said.

Trash containers are rented. The German authorities can fine the garrison for damage caused to containers as well as improper sorting and damage to refuse vehicles when community members do not dispose of items properly.



Photos by Katia Pedrotti, Refuse & Recycling Branch chief, USAG Stuttgart Directorate of Public Works

Trash and recyclable materials left outside of the containers, which can lead to a wet mess.



### Getting rid of big items

To contact the Installation Coordinators for assistance in disposal of bulk/furniture items or materials you just aren't sure what to do with, call:

- Patch Barracks:** 430-5450 or 0711-680-5450
- Kelley Barracks & SAAF:** 421-6280 or 0711-680-6280, and 430-5450 or 0711-680-5450
- Panzer Kaserne:** 431-2806 or 07031-15-2806
- Robinson Barracks:** 420-6033 or 0711-819-6033

Download on and off-post recycling guides using links on the online Stuttgart Citizen.

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# SLC receives prestigious American Bar Association award

By Capt. Nicole A. Oberjuerge  
 Chief, Client Services  
 Stuttgart Law Center

The Stuttgart Law Center received a 2018 group award from the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel (ABA LAMP), April 22.

The Standing Committee bestows group awards to legal assistance offices in recognition of exceptional achievements or exceptional service to or in support of the military legal assistance effort. Each year, the ABA LAMP committee recognizes only one legal assistance office per military service. Nominations for the award must be made by the Service Chief of Legal Assistance for each branch of the Armed Forces. The Chief, Legal Assistance Policy Division, OTJAG, U.S. Army, nominated the SLC in the group category for 2018. The SLC is the only office in

the Army to receive the ABA LAMP group award and is one of only five offices in the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security to be recognized in the group category.

In its award recognition, the Standing Committee stated "The



Stuttgart Law Center Legal Assistance Office's highly effective preventative law program, excellent publication of information handouts and articles, and exceptional support to the most senior military community in the world outside of the Washington D.C. area, exhibits an exemplary effort to protect American servicemembers and Department of Defense civilian employees stationed in Europe. As part of its preventative law program, the Stuttgart Law Center features a bi-weekly "Ask a JAG" segment on American Forces Network, delivers monthly articles on legal assistance

topics, and provides weekly preventative law classes to new community members. Additionally, the Stuttgart Law Center Legal Assistance Office improved the online presence of the Stuttgart Law Center through modernization of its website and developed an innovative online appointment system accessible through mobile applications, which is the first of its kind in the Army JAG Corps."

The SLC continues to work on initiatives to increase the effectiveness of its Legal Assistance Office, including the most recent addition of the monthly immigration workshop led by an immigration attorney (held every final Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. at the SLC).

The SLC always welcomes feedback. If you have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact the SLC at 0711-729-4152, email at us-army.stuttgart.21-tsc.mbx.slcla@mail.mil or submit an ICE comment in-person or on-line.



**View the award announcement**

Visit the ABA LAMP website at [www.americanbar.org/groups/legal\\_assistance\\_military\\_personnel/initiatives\\_awards/award\\_winners/](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_assistance_military_personnel/initiatives_awards/award_winners/)



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NEWS BRIEFS



Send your announcements for upcoming events to the USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

The taxman is waiting

April 15 is past and walk-in tax preparations ended April 19 at the Stuttgart Tax Center. However, there's still hope for tardy taxpayers by appointment. Taxpayers have until the last day in May make an appointment. Bring all of your W-2s, Social Security cards for all of your family (not just the numbers) and other critical paperwork to get your taxes filed. Note, if you do end up owing money, you'll owe interest on any taxes due since April 15. The two-month overseas extension is just for filing. Call 421-1420 or 0711-729-1420, or email usarmy.stuttgart.21-tsc.mbx.tax@mail.mil.

Czech it out

Since 1990, the city of Pilsen, Czech Republic, has honored World War II American troops after the 3rd Army for liberating it May 6, 1945. This year's Liberation Festival takes place May 2-6, with hundreds of re-enactors in WWII uniforms, jeeps, trucks, tanks and more. Being a fest, there'll be parades, food and drink, and bands, plus numerous public wreath laying ceremonies at monuments and memorials. Visit <http://slavnostisvobody.cz/en/program/main-program/> to learn more.

Mobile app friendly myPay

On May 4, myPay will launch a simpler, streamlined

and more mobile-friendly version. When you log on to myPay, you'll see a much different design, enjoy easier navigation and experience enhanced usability. You don't need to worry about accessing your account—your login ID and password will still allow you to retrieve information or submit changes. Find out more about the changes to myPay at [www.dfas.mil/mypayinfo/myPay2019.html](http://www.dfas.mil/mypayinfo/myPay2019.html).

Quatro (en lugar de Cinco, amigos) de Mayo

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo at the Patch Community Club, 6 p.m. (doors open at 4 p.m.), May 4, with live music by Cabala Negro, Mexican food vendors and a nacho bar. Call 430-5433 or 0711-680-5433 for more information.



Stake your claim

Army Community Service (Bldg. 2915, Panzer Kaserne), will host a Veterans Affairs Overseas Claims Clinic, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., May 22, and noon to 5 p.m., May 23, at ACS. VA representatives will be present to assist with filing claims, obtaining the status of pending claims, and to provide information regarding VA benefits to active duty service members, retirees, veterans, family members and widowed spouses. Walk-ins only—clients will be seen on a first come, first seen basis (this is change in process, as appointments won't be made, just walk-ins only). Bring a copy of your DD-214, both military and

civilian medical records, as well as any supporting evidence. Call ACS 431-3362 or 07031-15-3362 for more information.

Live to ride

The 2019 Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic Rider and Experienced Rider courses, required for service members to ride, take place at Stuttgart Army Airfield. The next ERC takes place, May 23, with more classes June 27, Aug. 1 and Sep. 26. The remaining BRC date is July 25. Personnel must register online via US Army Traffic Safety Training Program Registration System. Note:

Registration is CAC-enabled for Soldiers; non-Army should contact the USAG Stuttgart Safety Office. The Installation Safety Office is in Bldg. 2948, rooms 302, 301

and 320, Panzer Kaserne. Call 431-3832 / 3133 / 3134. Civilians or family members needing training should call the rider mentor coaches at 431-2198 or 430-2226.

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Early registration is open until May 29 for the family, stroller and pet friendly 16th Annual Cobblestone Classic. Run the old historic cobblestone road from Panzer Kaserne to Patch Barracks, 10 a.m., June 1. If you register the morning of the race, there's a price increase. The first 250 participants to register will receive an event t-shirt. Run is open to US ID cardholders ages 10 and up. After the run, head back over to Panzer to do a little shopping at the community flea market. No transportation provided back to the start line.

**Hear ye, hear ye**

Over the next year, the garrison will conduct four community town halls, 6:30 p.m., to address concerns regarding housing and other issues. The town halls will take place at Robinson Barracks Chapel, June 27;

Panzer Chapel, Sept. 23; Kelley Theater, Dec. 11; and Patch Chapel, March 26, 2020. Any changes will be announced here and online.



**As American as apple (or pizza) pie**

The garrison BOSS program seeks volunteers to take a pie in the face on the 4th of July. Senior service members from command teams may volunteer for a time slot of their choosing. Contact the BOSS program through your unit's BOSS rep, ask the HHC USAG Stuttgart first sergeant or garrison command sergeant major, or call the BOSS president at 314-591-5005 to accept this messy mission. The next meeting takes place at 6 p.m., May 16, in the Galaxy Bowling

and Entertainment Center, Panzer Kaserne, with free bowling for all BOSS members and dependents of BOSS single parents—pizza provided! Attend the BOSS Benefits Lunch & Learn at the Panzer Education Center, Bldg. 2915, Panzer Kaserne, 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m., May 28. RSVP by May 20.

**“Go Army, it's your birthday!”**

Put on your ASU with bowtie, dress mess or civilian equivalent, or civilian formal wear and attend the 244th US Army Birthday Ball at the Mövenpick Hotel Stuttgart Airport, June 1, hosted by Maj. Gen. Todd B. McCaffrey, Chief of Staff, United States Africa Command. The guest speaker will be retired Lt. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston. The evening begins at 5 p.m. with a social hour. Tickets are €65 and may be purchased

at <https://stuttgartarmyball244.eventbee.com>. For more information, contact the Stuttgart U.S. Army Birthday Ball Committee at [stuttgartarmyball@gmail.com](mailto:stuttgartarmyball@gmail.com).

**Kelley Construction**

DPW wants you to know that work around buildings 3350 and 3352 begins May 6. The road between the buildings to access parking spaces will be blocked during construction. This work should be completed on May 24. Also, Ash Street will be partially blocked and some parking on Ash and Pine Street (near Bldg. 3315) will be affected due the final asphalt work of the Kelley sewer repair. The CDC drop off, Bldg. 3352 and Bldg. 3368 will be also blocked, but will have a temporarily parking space. The bus stop at Ash Street will be during the final asphalt work not operational—please use the bus stop at Kelley Hotel. The work will start on May 11

and should end on May 18. Pedestrians should follow the signs around the working area.

**Not kidding**

All CYS programs will be closed, June 14, for training and a FMWR organizational day. Call 430-7458.

*(Editor's note: And most of the rest of FMWR will be closed that day—watch this space in the June issue or visit <https://stuttgart.armymwr.com/> for more information.)*

**EPMD Roadshow**

The Human Resources Command Enlisted Personnel Management leaders will host an EPMD Roadshow at the Panzer Chapel, 1:30–3:30 p.m., May 8, for all Army enlisted personnel, HQs and command teams. The HR team wants to speak to as many Soldiers as possible. This is an opportunity to ask questions pertaining to the overall readiness of the Army, manning priorities, promotions and schooling.

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# It's PCS season—financial readiness is a priority for military families

Story and photo by Evonna Moody  
Stuttgart High School

More than 40 percent of service members, many with families, move between May 15 and August 15 (known in the military community as PCS season), according to the Department of Defense. Relocating often highlights the financial struggles military families face during this transition period.

However, there are an abundance of resources available in regards to financial security.

Since 2003, the DoD's Financial Readiness campaign includes Military Saves Week, which annually occurs on installations around the world during the last week of February. USAG Stuttgart hosted its own Military Saves Week Resource Fair at Army Community Service, Panzer Kaserne, as a way to help

better prepare local military families for the often unexpected financial challenges.

"Military Saves Week helps bring together different agencies here from the instillation to offer free resources to our community," said Merilee Nevins, accredited financial counselor and financial readiness specialist for ACS.

Even though the 2019 Resource Fair has past, the resources offered are available year, the Financial Readiness campaign continues throughout the entire year.

Service members and families have access to informational books, special credit programs and opportunities for scholarships for dependents of service members all year long. For example, ACS participates in the Financial Readiness Program, offering free classes and counseling so military families can have a better understanding of budgeting, investing, and saving.

*(Editor's Note: Evonna Moody is a senior at SHS and part of the Career Practicum program. She is interested in international relations and journalism.)*

## Helpful links to savings

**Thrift Savings Plan:** A federal government-sponsored long-term retirement savings and investment plan, available for both federal civilian employees and members of the uniformed services.

<http://www.tsp.gov/>

**U.S. Savings Bonds:** A shorter-term savings option with competitive interest rates and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States.

<http://www.savingsbonds.gov/>

**Military Saves:** A component of the nonprofit America Saves and a partner in the DoD's Financial Readiness Campaign, Military Saves seeks to motivate, support and encourage military families to save money, reduce debt, and build wealth.

<http://militarysaves.org/>

**Money Matters:** A mobile-optimized resource with calculators for savings, debt reduction and other reference material in one location.

<http://www.myarmyonesource.com/moneymatters>

**Financial Literacy Game:** A great way to learn about finances, integrating creativity, education and fun in a virtual world.

<http://www.myarmyonesource.com/communitiesandmarketplace/financialliteracygame/default.aspx>

**Housing Resources for Military Members:** The National Military Family Association has compiled a great list of resources to help military families struggling with the pitfalls of the housing crisis.

<http://www.militaryfamily.org/feature-articles/what-options-are-available.html>

**Army OneSource:** A network of the services and delivery of support to Soldiers and their families.

<http://www.myarmyonesource.com/>

**Military OneSource:** A DoD-funded program that provides comprehensive information on every aspect of military life at no cost to active duty, Army Reserve, National Guard and their families.

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/>

**Office of Servicemember Affairs:** A component of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau helps to educate and empower military members, veterans, and their Families in the consumer financial marketplace.

<http://www.consumerfinance.gov/>

**Saveandinvest.org:** A project of the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, a free, unbiased resource dedicated to your financial health. Helps you make informed decisions through easy-to-use tools and resources, and arms you with the information you need to protect yourself from investment fraud.

<http://www.saveandinvest.org/>

**Better Business Bureau Military Line:** Provides specialized education and support services, which meets the needs of active and retired military personnel and their families.

<http://www.bbb.org/council/programs-services/bbb-military-line/>

Financial readiness is a priority for the DoD. For more information on financial readiness, contact Stuttgart ACS at <https://stuttgart.armymwr.com/programs/army-community-service>.



Jackie Schweizer (left), Community Bank, offers resources at the Military Saves Resource Fair at ACS, Feb. 27.

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# ‘Spargelzeit’ marked by roadsign stands, menus, grocery specials

By John Reese  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The locals love their white asparagus, and right now, it’s in season.

Between April and June is Spargelzeit (asparagus time), when restaurants annually offer the large, white Spargel spears prepared in a variety of ways. Grocery stores have Spargelangebote (specials) prominently displayed in their advertising and stores. Farmers’ markets do a brisk business selling bundles of Spargel. And roadside stands, especially in rural areas and sometimes shaped like giant white asparagus spears (or giant red strawberries, as the fruit is also in season and often sold together with asparagus), sell it to passing motorists.

White asparagus in the area around Stuttgart dates back to the 1500s, planted exclusively for the ducal and the royal Baden and Württemberg courts until the 19th century. It was nicknamed Königsgemüse (royal vegetable), Elfenbein zum Essen (edible ivory), or Weisses Gold (white gold).

Spargel might be served swimming in butter or covered with Hollandaise sauce, and in restaurants, it’s usually accompanied by new potatoes. It can be served as a breakfast or brunch dish with ham and eggs, or a lunch or



Photo by Bardia Khajenoori

**Bundles of Spargel await at a roadside stand, ready to prepare. White asparagus has a tough, somewhat bitter peel that must be removed before cooking. Trim the lower 1/2 inch from the ends and peel each spear downward from the crown, then simmer, standing, in water or vegetable broth.**

dinner item with seafood. A Swabian crepe called Kratzete, a scrambled thin pancake, is a popular side dish. Don’t be deterred by the price; just know that asparagus meals aren’t cheap.

It is very popular as a soup while in season, although canned Spargelsuppe can be found year round ... but why slurp canned soup when freshly prepared is available? There’s something special about the steaming bowl of white asparagus soup being presented at the table; you lean forward, inhaling

the aroma as that first spoonful cools just enough to consume.

And consume they do! In 2015, the German Information Centre for Agriculture’s statistics put the total consumption of asparagus at about 123,000 tons-plus (green asparagus’ popularity is on the rise, so this number might include both variants.)

Baden-Württemberg is one of Germany’s major asparagus-growing regions and has its own scenic Asparagus Route, stretching 136 kilometers from

the asparagus-producing town of Schwetzingen via Reilingen, Karlsruhe and Rastatt, to Scherzheim.

Schwetzingen claims to be the Asparagus Capital of the World, and proudly holds an annual Spargelfest, or asparagus festival, as do many other towns in Spargelland. Spargelfest will take place May 4. It starts at 10 a.m. and ends around 10 p.m. For more information in English, visit the city’s official website.

Spargel harvesting and eating season, typically ending around the time cherries ripen, adheres to the old farmers’ almanac rule “Kirschen rot, Spargel tot” –when cherries are red, asparagus is dead.

*(Editor’s note: Some of the information for this tasty article came from a previous story in the Stuttgart Citizen by contributor Therese Weiss.)*

**There’s a museum for that**

Want to learn more about white asparagus? The European Spargelmuseum is located in Schrobenhausen, Bavaria. Visit <https://museenschrobenhausen.byseum.de/de/spargelmuseum>.

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# The right gear for your MC means spring, summer safety

Story and photo by John Reese  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Motorcycling is a great way to travel; it's economical and fun. Wearing the right gear, keeping riding skills sharp and inspecting your motorcycle regularly can help reduce risks.

Personal protective equipment to protect motorcycle riders is intended to protect the rider in an accident, and some of it also helps prevent accidents in the first place. Wearing the right PPE is required by U.S. Army in Europe Regulation 190-1. This regulation applies to all service members, Department of Defense civilian employees and family members. The regulation and an accompanying

policy letter require the following PPE:

- **Helmet:** A helmet properly fastened under the chin that meets the standards set by the American National Standards Institute, the Snell Memorial Foundation Standards, the Institut für Zweiradsicherheit e.V. (Institute for Two-Wheel Safety).
- **Eye protection:** Must meet the Vehicle Equipment Safety Commission Regulation standards or the European equivalent. Eye protection must be impact- or shatter-resistant goggles or a full-face shield properly attached to

the helmet. A windshield or eye-glasses alone are not proper eye protection.

- **Full-fingered gloves**
- **Body:** Long sleeve, high-visibility, bright fluorescent colored upper body garments (for example, fluorescent yellow, green, red, or orange) for day travel and full-length pants, and reflective clothing for night travel. This garment may be a shirt or a jacket, though the Motorcycle Safety Foundation recommends sturdy jackets made of leather or reinforced materials. Operators in military uniform may wear bright fluorescent colored

approved motorcycle riding jackets with their uniform. Riding suits specifically for motorcyclists that include the above features required by AER-190-1 are also recommended.

- **Boots:** Over-the-ankle footwear should be made of sturdy leather and have a good oil-resistant sole to reduce slipping hazards. Service boots meet this requirement.

*(Editor's note: See the upcoming motorcycle safety courses in the News Briefs section of this issue. Next issue, types of motorcycle safety courses offered by USAG Stuttgart and TCLOCs before you ride.)*



Motorcyclists from the USAG Stuttgart military community wearing PPE pause during a 100-mile, rainy day ride, May 20, 2018.

## Tuning-out leads to trouble

Installation Safety Office  
USAG Stuttgart

More and more Stuttgart military community members are observed wearing listening devices while walking, running, jogging and bicycling within the garrison footprint.

This practice is hazardous to both the pedestrian and motorists because these devices impair the pedestrian's ability to hear warning sounds or approaching vehicles on roadways. The prohibition against this activity has always been in place both in the Department of Defense Policy and Army Regulations.

In accordance with DoD Instruction 6055.04, Army in Europe Regulation 190-1(i)(2) and

AE Reg. 385-10(6-3)(d), the use of portable headphones, earphones, cellular phones, iPods, or other listening and entertainment devices (other than hearing aids) while walking, jogging, running, bicycling, skating, or skateboarding on roadways is prohibited.

Using listening devices impairs recognition of emergency signals, alarms, announcements, approaching vehicles, human speech, and outside noise in general. This DoDI applies to all persons on a DoD installation including civilians and family members.

### Safety questions?

Visit the USAG Stuttgart Installation Safety Office, Bldg. 2948, Rm. 302, Panzer Kaserne, or call 431-3832 or 07031-15-3832.



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# Army CID Warns of Internet Sextortion Scams

**Criminal Investigation Command  
News Release**

As part of a continuing campaign to help prevent Soldiers and other members of the Army community from becoming victims of crime, Special Agents from the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, commonly known as Army CID, are once again cautioning the Army community about ongoing Internet based "sextortion" scams.

Sexual extortion, or "sextortion," is a cybercrime perpetrated against unwitting victims who are often approached in casual conversation via social media platforms and then seduced into engaging in online sexual activities. After participating in the sexual request, which are most often recorded without the victim's knowledge or consent, the victim is then threatened by the criminals with public exposure and embarrassment if the victim does not pay money to the extortionist.

According to military officials, more than 450 known military

members from all services have fallen victim to the scam and have been blackmailed for more than \$560,000 dollars, and those numbers do not include the number of victims who have not come forward.

With the criminals threatening to send compromising video or photographs to the victim's commanders or families, victimized military members often pay out of fear that their careers will be jeopardized by the false claims. In another concerning version of the scam, the criminals will contact the victim and pose as police or parents of who they claim is an "underage victim" and threaten to ruin the service member's career or have them arrested if they do not pay the ransom.

Another method the criminals use to attempt to extort money is to claim that they are a lawyer working on behalf of the alleged victim. The scammer will request payments for things such as counseling for the alleged victim or to replace electronic devices that now contain alleged

"child pornography." If these demands are not met, the person claiming to be the lawyer threatens to report the incident to law enforcement.

"Legitimate organizations will not contact you and ask for money in lieu of reporting you to law enforcement," said Special Agent Edward LaBarge, the head of Army CID's highly specialized Computer Crime Investigative Unit. "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."

Army CID officials stress that if an individual is being blackmailed and comes forward, they want to help that individual.

"It is important to also keep in mind that law enforcement, to include Army CID, will never agree not take legal action against you if you have agreed to pay [ransom]

**More from CID**

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](http://www.cid.army.mil/cciu-advisories.html). To report a crime to CID, visit [www.cid.army.mil](http://www.cid.army.mil).



the perpetrators responsible for victimizing Army personnel."

Additionally, CID officials warn that if you do not seek help, victims are often at risk for further exploitation. Once the blackmail begins, the criminals can continue to demand additional payments, more sexual images, sensitive military information, or access to U.S. Army systems and facilities, so early notification to law enforcement is very important according to CID Special Agents.

"To avoid falling prey to a sextortion scam, never send compromising photos or videos of yourself to anyone, whether you know them or think you know them," said LaBarge. "You are also advised to turn off your electronic devices and physically block web cameras when you are not using them."

*For more information on how these scams unfold and how to identify sextortion red flags, see the Joint Service Sextortion brochure.*



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University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

**If you've been 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](mailto: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](mailto:Assistance.Victim@ice.dhs.gov), or the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov).

**Victims can seek information on rights and assistance from:**

- Army Victim/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.

# Month of the Military Child essay: Life of a military related child

By Sage Honigstein, 6th Grade  
Patch Middle School

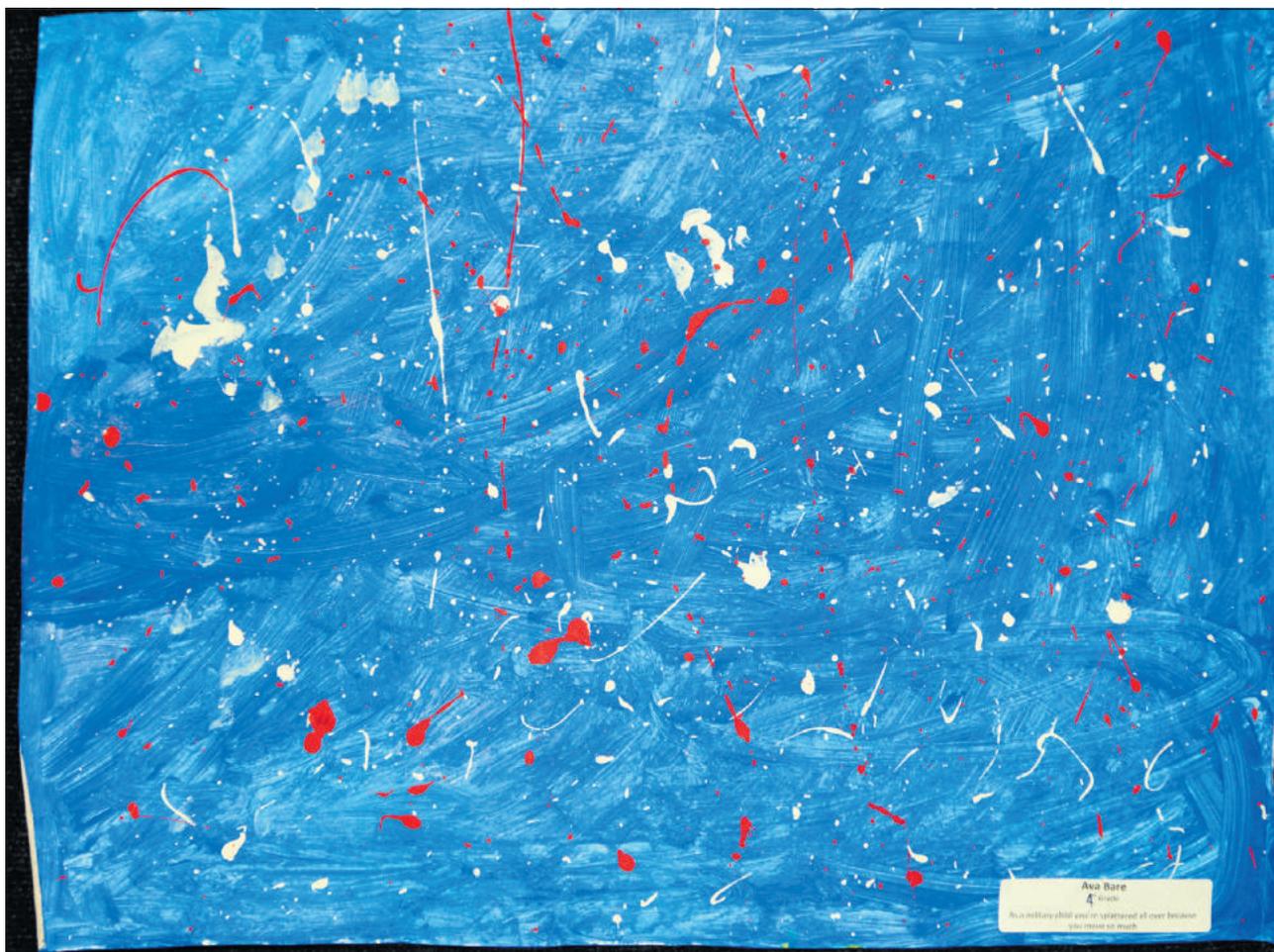
Whenever I hear about people who can stay in one place for more than three years, it sounds weird. I'm a 12 year old, and I have never knew where I was going to live for more than 3 years. My dad's a diplomat, so what's it like to be me? It's awesome. Most of the children my age have no idea what a diplomat is, so I will tell you. They are the people whose job is to go out and help others. To help other countries, and help give people visas. So why am I living here, on a military base if I'm in the state department? Right now, my dad is a political advisor. His job is to help the military get an idea of what's going on in the government. It's all about diplomacy!

Now, I just found out that my dad would go to Washington for 1 year for training, than Georgia for three years. The experience of knowing where I'll be in four years was mind blowing! It just feels weird. Now, I know that it's not required to stay in one place for more than three years in the department of defense, so they might not move as much as department of state children, but that doesn't mean that they don't still move more than the average child!

You see the thing about me is that I Want to make a difference in life. I want to change the world for the better. I am surrounded by people who do that every day, it's their job! I'm thinking, why can't I do better? So I am trying to do my best in school, get an education, finish my homework, one step at a time. I can do it. We can do it.

We are a democracy, a rainbow of people from around the world, here at one place, because the world can be big. I have been to 31 countries, each one could probably be the whole world to a person. Yet that isn't even a fifth of all the countries out there! But the matter where you get posted, you can always find a home there, because that is what military related children do.

Sometimes moving is hard, and you feel like the next place won't be as nice as where you are, but in my experience, I feel like each place can't compare to the last. They are all amazing! The one thing everyone in this school may have in common is that they support their parents or people who raise them. We are there for them. We care for them. They are out there, making a difference, and we are right beside them, whether it's a stay at home parent to a military captain! We are there for them, because we

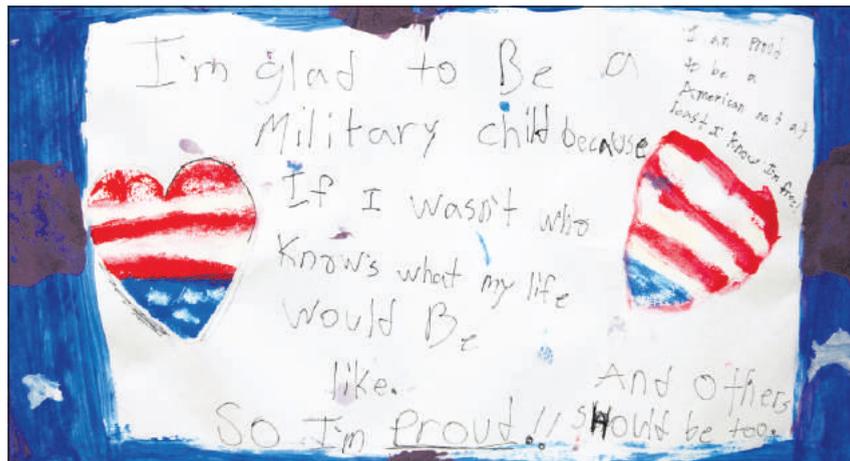


Abstract by 4th grader Ava Bare. "As a military child, you're splattered all over because you move so much."

are the military child, and related to military child!

Essays and drawings from students across the Stuttgart military community are submitted to the School Liaison Office each March and published throughout the month of April on The Citizen, at the Panzer Main Exchange and read aloud on AFN Stuttgart radio to celebrate our military children in Stuttgart.

*(Editor's note: This essay is presented in its original form. It has not been edited by the Stuttgart Citizen staff.)*



Drawing by 1st grader Neviah Jones.

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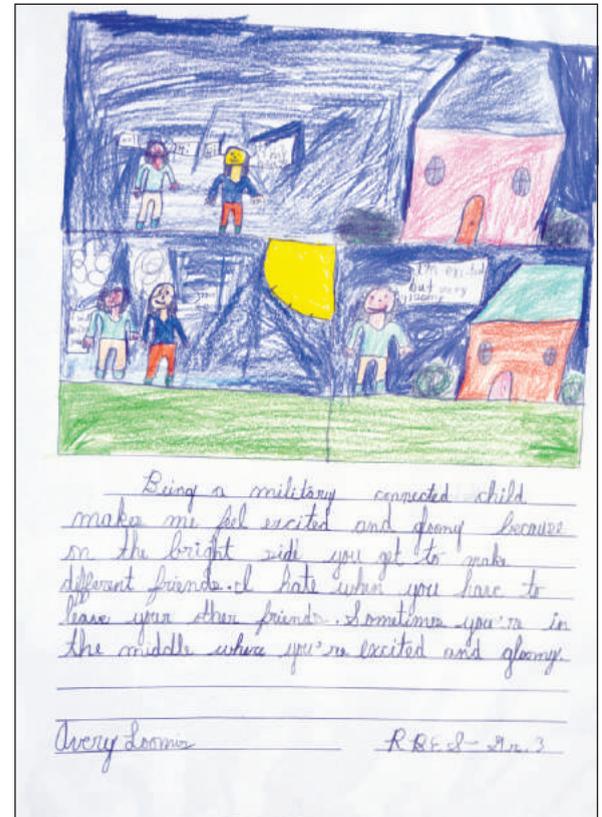
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Photo by Sabrina Wilson, president, RBES PTSA Garrison police chief Ruben Santiago high-fives Robinson Barracks Elementary School students as they leave campus on Purple Up! Day.



MOMC display in the Patch Commissary.

# Resilience in the lives of military children: The effect of chapel relationships

By Dr. Becky Powell  
Religious Education Program Director  
USAG Stuttgart

Relationships are significant in the resilience of all children. However, relocations and deployments interrupt the significant relationships of military children. Relationships within chapels can supplement and support military children in resilience and development.

Chapels can play a role in a child's resilience during normal times as well as traumatic. Relationships are significant in the development and resilience of children and adolescents. The interruptions of permanent change of station and deployment can be mitigated by the religious practice and chapel relationships. PCSes "have the potential to create an overwhelming emotional reaction in an individual to the point that they are unable to function during or following the incident, or are unable to cope psychologically with an event" (Hauser, 2014).

Everyone child, adolescent or adult

needs support - whether or not they are military. In talking about resilience and crisis issues, one UK chaplain says "... not just the Soldiers who are dealing with this. Their children are dealing with this" (Hancock, 2011).

A person feels alone upon arriving to a new duty station. They may feel like the formless and void which begins Genesis creation narrative. They are not sure where to find friends or resources. As they transition, they begin to notice new people and support, and chapels are uniquely visible.

There have been military chaplains as long as there have been militaries. Chaplains support for people of all faith groups. Army chaplains have a threefold mission: "To nurture the living, care for the wounded, and honor the dead." (AR 165-1, Army Chaplains Corps Activities). Chaplains have a massive task to provide these basic services to military personnel and their families. Therefore, resilience and religious support are tasks of all members of military

communities and especially the chapel volunteers. It takes continued chapel planning to support military children, but these efforts improve resilience for the whole community.

Military families describe chapels and chaplains as important parts of celebrating and surviving military life. Adults who were raised as military children have a continued sense of connection to their upbringing through a chapel's community. Parents today describe and appreciate the relationships and resilience that chapels provide. "These programs are extremely valuable to help our children understand that God is in charge even if they cannot control their lives that are constantly in turmoil due to PCS moves and parent deployments" (Tolson, 2011)

Resilience can be supported through significant, trustworthy relationships. Chapels provide education and worship which enhance

intergenerational relationships. As chaplains build relationships with volunteers and participants, they fulfill regulations and build the community's resilience.

### Bibliography

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USAG Stuttgart chapels offer weekly worship for many traditions. The chapels also provide religious education programming weekly for Jewish, Protestant and Catholic personnel. The Religious Education Program director has digital and video based resources for all religious traditions. This summer, the chapels are providing two Vacation Bible Schools, June 24-29 at Patch Chapel and Aug. 11-14 at Robinson Barracks Chapel. For more information, call 431-3071 or 07031-15-3071.



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# SHS girls' soccer team looking to repeat as champions

Story and photos by Larry Reilly  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The Stuttgart High School girls soccer team picked up where they left off last season when they brought home top honors, winning their first four games of this season in resounding fashion.

The latest goalie picked apart by the Panther scorers belonged to the Black Forest Academy Falcons, which traveled to Stuttgart only to be beat 7-2 by the Panther feet, April 20. Although the score seems a bit lopsided, the Panther coach praised the BFA players for the challenge they brought to the match.

"They have some pretty talented players on their squad who challenged us early in the game," said Bill Ratcliff, head coach for the girls' soccer team. "We have a lot of depth and talent on this team that other teams do not, and it's just a matter of time when those factors take over for us."

Stating the team has talent is an understatement, as Ratcliff has a number of high quality players he can field, such as Ragan Treichel, renowned sweeper; Liv Sullens, a threat from outside; Victory Antoine,



SHS girls varsity soccer player #4, Erin Taylor, moves the ball down the field toward a Panther victory, April 20.

team's top scorer; and Lily Lakich, considered the best player in Europe. These are just a few of the talented members on this defending championship team.

If last year's squad was considered the dream team, this year's team may be labelled the super dream team as Ratcliff believes it is even

more talented.

"It's all about the team chemistry and it's considerably stronger this year," stated Ratcliff. "The skill level we have at every position is higher than last year."

As the team prepares for its next game at Kaiserslautern on May 4, the path to bringing home the 2019

championship trophy seems well in hand. However, Ratcliff is taking nothing for granted.

"Nothing is guaranteed. As long as the team chemistry stays strong, we can avoid injuries and everyone keeps their academics where they need to be; well, you just never know," Ratcliff said.

## SHS boys' soccer team loses to BFA 2-0

The Stuttgart High School boys' soccer team lost a close game to the visiting Black Forest Academy Falcons 2-0, April 20. The Falcon's stingy defense thwarted all the scoring opportunities the Panthers

were able to create. Although the Panthers' defense played well, the Falcons were able to net a couple of goals to take the game. The Panther boys and girls teams travel to K-town on May 4.



The Panthers converge on the ball during their match against Black Forest Falcons, ultimately prevailing.



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