

EARLY Bird 13 – 19 October, 2012

SAFETY/SECURITY

Testing probe found 131 bombs (Oct. 19)

Since Thursday, 416,000 of 1,100,000 square meters of the business park “Maintal” had been sold when the members of the city council and Lord Mayor Remele went on a bus tour through the Maintal. The group made their first stop at the location where a team was probing for bombs from World War II before construction of phase II of the business park can be started. The probing is being conducted by two specialist firms from Bavaria and the Netherlands. According to photos taken by English photographer in 1939 and additional photos were taken after the bomb attacks and which were sent from Edinburgh and Washington, bomb craters and compacted craters were located and the area to be tested was fenced in. So far 60 stick-type incendiary bombs and 71 phosphor bombs were found. There were no incidents. The critical areas are being examined with an 8 channel probing device that will find any metal, any cartridge and hand grenade. The members of the city council were interested if they were any findings from the bronze or iron ages but that was not the case. So far the business park houses SRAM (bicycle parts), Fleischerring (supplies for butcher shops) a company with construction machinery, a lot for a gas station, company Weth which produces signs, a quality management center, a control center for building components, SKF Linear, Horton Europe and Schenker. In the near future office buildings, medical practices, restaurants and small and medium businesses will follow.

City tests sirens (Oct. 16)

The city of Schweinfurt will test its sirens, along with all cities in Bavaria, on Wednesday, 17 October at 1100. The purpose of the test alarm is to check if all the sirens are all still functioning and to remind the population what the signals mean. Two signals will be sounded within an interruption of a few minutes, first a howling sound of one minute duration meaning: Warning the population of a special danger. What you have to do: Turn on your radio (for example BR3 and Antenne Bayern) and listen to the announcements; second a continuous sound of one minute – twice interrupted – meaning: Fire alarm - if you are on the road especially watch out for vehicles with blue lights turned on and the sirens going. The relief organizations depend on free traffic routes.

Army evacuates school (Oct. 13)

A delivery truck containing deliveries for the commissary caused alarm in the residential area “Askren Manor” on Friday morning when the driver accessed the entrance gate to Conn Barracks incorrectly. The truck was stopped and the security personnel at the gate initiated the measures taken in case of such incident leading to the closure of the gate and the evacuation of the close surroundings, including the commissary, a child development center and the Elementary/Middle school. After the area had been cleared by a canine unit the children and students were taken back to their respective facilities, the main gate was reopened and the all garrison facilities resumed normal operating hours. The incident happened between 1015 and 1100. The U.S. Army immediately informed the public via face book. Shortly after 1100 the message “all personnel and students are safe” was published. When initiating the routine security measures the security personnel followed existing standing operating procedures.

LEADERS/POLITICS

What will happen when the Army leaves? (Oct. 18)

The Americans will leave – but what will happen then? How can or how should Ledward and Conn Barracks, the housing areas and the huge training area and Kessler Field be used? Ideas will be collected, as part of a conversion assessment, starting 27 October in the internet at www.zivilarena.de. In addition, representatives of company Zivilarena GmbH are waiting in the town hall for as many as possible, creative but objective contributions. Hans Schnabel, conversion representative for the city and Konrad Bonengel conversion representative for the county also hope for a high participation. According to Schnabel citizens' participation was offered by company BulwienGesa as a module of the entire conversion assessment. Schnabel stated: "I think that the discussion on www.zivilarena.de will become a topic in the city of Schweinfurt and in the region. For Bonengel it is also a significant topic "since the conversion of the U.S. Army properties and their civilian use will stay with us for the next 10 or 1 years" he stated. Manager of Zivilarena GmbH, Oliver Nöthen, stated: "Faced with an area of 3,000 hectare (=11.58 square miles) one can either freeze with respect or take it as a chance, he recommended the latter. He stated: "We will support and oversee the open brainstorming and the discussions." This will happen in a three-week long online forum and analog in an "ideas workshop" in the conference center end of November. Wanda Wiczorek will moderate and structure the online discussions for example when blocks of ideas develop. She also will ensure that the etiquette is maintained, and all inputs are respectful and factual and that the parties in a discussion are not subjective, polemic or even insulting. However; Wiczorek added: "I assume that this will not be my main job." Since Wednesday information in regards to conversion and details in concerning the areal and the buildings are available on www.zivilarena.de. Also flyers in regards to citizens' participation will be available in central locations within the city and the county. Furthermore, posters will be put up within the city and the county of Schweinfurt. Because both, the city and county of Schweinfurt and Zivilarena GmbH, would like to have the citizens' participation module under the theme "Schweinfurt after the Army" discussed by a broad audience, accompanied by good ideas. First results are eagerly awaited by the city and county and Zivilarena GmbH before the workshop at the conference center begins. The Zivilarena GmbH exists since November 2011 and this is its second conversion project. Hans Schnabel, the city representative for conversion would like to point out that online citizens' participation is meant as a forum to gather ideas – not an online voting tool. He stated: "The final decision will be made by communal committees." There are no share buttons to face book and twitter; the online discussion shall take place only at www.zivilarena.de

Change no longer needed when parking downtown Schweinfurt (Oct. 17)

Paying parking fees via cell-phone will soon be possible in parking lots downtown Schweinfurt; however; not in underground parking garages because the presently used software which operates the barriers cannot be updated and would have to be replaced which would be too expensive. The parking ticket machines in the underground parking garages will be upgraded to enable payment with EC and credit cards by spring 2013. Another possibility would be an EC card with a near-field chip. It would work similar to paying for tickets for the ski-lift – passing the ticket machine with the near-field chip and the amount will be deducted from the deposit on

your EC card. All parking lots will gradually be upgraded for enabling payment via EC card. The city administration still will have to oversee the registering at the barrier entrances and exits which will require the following: When driving through the barrier the driver has to put the EC card into the slot on the entrance barrier to be registered when driving through the exit barrier the fees will be deducted. Presently there are still some concerns in regards to data protection but a statutory rule is in process.

Largest exercise of the U.S. Army in Europe since 1989 (Oct. 16)

Almost 6,000 Soldiers from the USA and 17 allied countries are presently training in the military training areas Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels. According to a spokesman in Grafenwoehr this is the largest exercise of the U.S. Army in Europe since 1989. The training includes mainly combat against small and medium sized enemy formations in which the USA are playing a major role, based on the experiences made in Iraq and Afghanistan. Next to 4,000 U.S. Soldiers and approximately 1,900 Soldiers from allied forces are participating in this exercise that ends on 30 October.

Demographic change affects town hall, too (Oct. 15)

Dignified but casual – these are the demands the city’s leadership has in regards to the city’s length of service awards ceremony. This year 110 employees have been honored for 25 and 40 years of service. According to Lord Mayor Remele the largest number in years. Therefore the ceremony had to be moved to a new location, since the reception hall in the town hall was not large enough. This will probably be the case for the following years since, based on the age structure of city employees and the employees of the city’s subsidiaries, there will be a large number of employees reaching 25 and 40 years of service in the coming years. Presently the city has 3,450 employees on its payroll still Remele does not want to talk about a corporation but rather talks about an extended family. He thanked his employees for their engagement and stated: “It is a pleasure working with you and being your boss.” At the same time he voiced his hope that the group’s engagement and knowhow will be there also in the future. Chairman of the works council, Alexander Siegel, added some thought provoking facts. He stated that so far he only acknowledged the demographic change as a number but, recently when going through the birthday lists of the employees he had an impressive experience – in 15 years there will only be half of the people working for the city than there are now. In three to five years he expects a retirement boom and he stated: “We have to think about our services, since the citizens will also notice this.” He proposed three theses on how to handle this. The town hall leadership and politics have to fight against bureaucracy “monsters” pushing in from outside. Work places are needed where healthy working conditions exist and where an employee can work towards his/her retirement. Finally, the city has to be interesting and attractive for young people seeking employment who care more about the “spirit” of a company than the figure on their paycheck.

USAG Schweinfurt Conversion among top 5 projects in Germany (Oct. 13) At the “Expo Real” the federal agency for real property matters (BImA) informed that they have started processing ideas for the conversion of the military properties in and around Schweinfurt. At the 15th International real property trade fair BImA stated that the conversion of the military areas in and around Schweinfurt is the top 5 conversion project in Germany. After the drawdown of the U.S. Army in two years approximately a 3,000 hectares (or 30 square kilometers or 11.58 square miles) large area including 800 buildings with approximately 530,000 square meters (or

5,704,872square feet or 0.2 square miles) usable space will be available for civilian use. Among other areas that will be vacated is the “Brönnhof” the third largest training area in Western Europe. BImA gives the conversion in Schweinfurt its “highest significance.” ”We have to combine our forces and together march in the same direction to be able to handle the challenges of the drawdown and to promote growth dynamics for the Schweinfurt region” stated Larissa Komnick, responsible for the BImA-sales team. The Schweinfurt region was represented by County Commissioner Harald Leitherer and Hans Schnabel, Head of the Office for economic promotion and real properties in the city of Schweinfurt. For the 200 hectares (2,000 square kilometers) large Conn Barracks, including 280 buildings, an airfield, storage and maintenance hangars as well as a shopping center Leitherer can imagine an industrial park. Schnabel and the city of Schweinfurt would like to use Ledward Barracks as an expansion of the technical college and to strengthen the image of the city as a city of education. In addition to that, ideas existed for housing development. Presently a conversion assessment is being established to provide a concept for the future use of the military properties. As reported earlier two kasernes, three training areas, two housing areas and some smaller real properties will be affected. The former NCO club in Schweinfurt was returned to the BImA in July 2012. The BImA will take over the properties presumably in the spring of 2015. According to their sales division manager, Jörg Musial the conversion will be implemented in close cooperation with the city and the county of Schweinfurt. The planning should be started as soon as possible. Interested parties now have the opportunity to contact Larissa Komnick for information and/or to present their ideas. Next week representatives of the company “Zivilarena”, which is involved in the conversion assessment, will present its plans to include the population in finding ideas and conversion possibilities in Schweinfurt. The public discussion shall take place this year, online as well as with conventional means such as town hall meetings.

SPORT

This season the Mighty Dogs play in the “Oberliga Süd” (Oct. 13)

It’s the third best ice hockey league in Germany, the Oberliga Süd. So far they have not been very successful winning only one out of six games. However; in the last game against the second team in the ”Oberliga Süd” , the “Star Bulls” of Rosenheim they scored 2:3 and are ready for the next game against the Freiburg “Wolves” at the ice dome in Schweinfurt on 19 October at 2000.