



Schweinfurt Dispatch

Serving the Military Community of Schweinfurt

October 4, 2007



Faulenberg Kaserne returned to Germans *Former staffers included in closure team*

Story and photo by Roger Teel

Wuerzburg's Faulenberg Kaserne, established as a military installation in 1877 and home to American Soldiers since 1947, was officially returned to the German government Sept. 27.

Returning the kaserne to German authorities was bittersweet for many of the Army agents responsible for doing so.

Maria Assaad worked on Faulenberg for 31 years. Now, as chief of real estate operations with the U.S. Army Garrison, Schweinfurt, Directorate of Public Works (DPW), she was responsible for all facets of the closure and passed the keys to the kaserne to its new German owners.

Assaad will oversee the return of all other area installations, including the Wuerzburg Army hospital later this year and Leighton Barracks next year.

"It's stressful," she said, summarizing the effort to close and return the installation. "It's like stepping into another life. We have a saying in German that when something falls, it's a chance to make a new beginning. That's what's happening here."

Assaad assisted Johann Neumann

from the German Bundesanstalt für Immobilienaufgaben (BIMA), the German official estate property office, as he chained the front gate. Two DPW trucks and a forklift were the last Army vehicles to exit the kaserne.

"Wuerzburg has always been a friendly host town, a very friendly city," said Fred Rashnavadi, master planner for USAG Schweinfurt DPW, echoing sentiments expressed by many Americans during recent installation closures.

Rashnavadi, has lived in the Wuerzburg area since 1994. A former Army aviator, he was stationed at nearby Giebelstadt Airfield before retiring from active duty and taking on his new role.



Maria Assaad, chief of real estate for USAG Schweinfurt DPW, right, and Johann Neumann from the German Bundesanstalt für Immobilienaufgaben (BIMA), German's official estate property office, chain the front gate after the installation was cleared.

Rashnavadi is responsible for planning and coordinating details for all installation closures, including those at Kitzingen's Harvey and Larson Barracks, and

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USAREUR commander's annual CFC message

Once again we have an opportunity to *Make a World of Difference* by contributing to our favorite charities through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) – Overseas.

This year the CFC runs from Oct. 1 through Nov. 30, 2007. I encourage every leader and supervisor throughout the Army in Europe to support the CFC by giving Soldiers and Department of the Army civilian employees an opportunity to make a contribution.

During the 2006 CFC,

personnel throughout the Army in Europe donated more than \$2.5 million. Additionally, more than \$98,000 was returned to Army in Europe communities through Family Support and Youth Program (FSYP) donations. Through the FSYP, contributors can designate up to 100 percent of their donations to support quality-of-life programs and Families in their own communities.

Helping those in need here in the European theater, in the United States, and elsewhere

around the world is an affirmation of the American spirit. The CFC offers a valuable way for us to display that spirit by providing a reliable means for us to help others in need.

During the coming weeks, we will be conducting our annual fundraising campaign to support the CFC. Perhaps one of the organizations supported by the CFC has helped you, a Family member, a friend, or a neighbor. Now is your chance to show your appreciation by making a contribution of your



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own. I strongly encourage each of you to give generously to the charity of your choice. By doing so, you can *Make a World of Difference*.



News Briefs

Farmer's Market

Come visit the Schweinfurt Farmer's Market Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the market square. In addition to fresh fruit and vegetables, enjoy bread baked in an old fashioned wood-burning oven, as well as traditional pies. There will be a large selection of meat, lunch meat, sausages, ham, goat cheese, fruit juices, liquors, poultry, pasta, and jams or honey. Farmers give out samples of their products and information about their farms, the production and processing.

Health Clinic open

The Schweinfurt Health Clinic is open on all training holidays, including tomorrow. Monday, however, is a federal holiday, and the clinic will be closed in observance. For emergencies, your first option should be Leopoldina, which hosts a 24-hour emergency room. Contact 09721-7200.

I Can Belly Dance

The Army Community Service Center's 'I can do it' success series will offer belly dancing classes Tuesday and again Oct. 23 at noon at the Finney Fitness Center. Learn to move and flow like a genie in a bottle while building confidence and meeting new people. Call 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933 to register.

Registration Deadline

Central Texas College (CTC) will offer three on-site classes for Term 2 which runs Oct. 22 through Dec. 15. Registration deadline is Friday, Oct. 12. Classes offered are: AUMT 1407—Automotive Electrical Systems, CDEC 1321—The Infant and Toddler, and CJSA 1313—Court Systems and Practices. Stop by and see your CTC representative at the Education Center on Ledward or Conn Barracks to register today. For more information, call 354-6206.

Community Forums

The next Community Update Forum will be held in the Schweinfurt Elementary School gym Tuesday at 6 p.m. and at the Leighton Community Activities Center Wednesday at 6 p.m. The forums are your opportunity to meet community leaders, find out about upcoming events or changes within the garrison, and to pose questions about issues of concern. The community is invited and encouraged to attend.

Calling all Musicians

Wuerzburg High School needs your help. A group of local adults is pulling together a band for this year's Oct. 19 homecoming game. If you can play a band-type instrument (no harps, violins, etc.), come out and make the last homecoming memorable. Interested individuals please contact tom.tucker@eu.dodea.edu or call 0931-702-8421.

ACS reunion briefings

Join Army Community Services (ACS) for its reunion briefings in October. Attend the class: "Reunion and Children Tuesday from 6 to 7:30 p.m. or "Happiness after Homecoming" Wednesday from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Both sessions take place in the ACS classroom, located in building 242, Ledward Barracks. For more information, call 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.

Kids' classes offered

Skies Unlimited is offering ballet classes at building 153, Leighton Barracks in Wuerzburg Wed at 4 p.m. (beginners) and Thu at 5:30 p.m. (advanced). Classes are offered in Schweinfurt at the Abrams Entertainment Center Tue from 5-6 p.m. (3-4 year olds), Wed from 5-6 p.m. (5-6 year olds), and Thu from 5-6 p.m. (10-15 year olds). The cost is \$35 per month for one class per week or \$60 per month for two classes per week. To register, call 354-6460 or 09721-96-6460.

AWAG Conference

The Franken American Women's Activities, Germany area conference will be held on Thursday, November 1st at the Warner Club in Bamberg from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Applications for volunteers & delegates are now being accepted. Registration deadline is October 26th. Call 0176 6723 6511 or email hooahconnections@yahoo.com for more information.

Schweinfurt Dispatch



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The Schweinfurt Dispatch weekly newsletter is an unofficial publication of the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt, IMCOM-Europe and the U.S. Army authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1.

The newsletter is published and distributed weekly in an electronic format. The newsletter can be viewed on the U.S. Army Schweinfurt website at <http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil>.

This newsletter is a command information product that places emphasis on events and activities occurring throughout the Schweinfurt and Lower Franconia areas.

Information and photos included in this

newsletter are acquired from sources that highlight events, programs and activities in Schweinfurt and Lower Franconia.

Dates, times, locations, and the events themselves might change or be cancelled without prior notice.

To be added to the Schweinfurt Dispatch distribution list, please email: mail.sft.pao@eur.army.mil.

This address can also be used to submit community slides or information on upcoming events, or you can reach the USAG Schweinfurt public affairs office by calling 354-1600/6381 or (09721) 961600/966381.



- 6 OCT --MWR Family Friendly Trip to Dresden, free transportation. Call to sign up 350-6305.
--Leighton Shoppette operating hours change. Will close at 9 p.m.
- 8 OCT --Columbus Day, American federal holiday.
- 9 OCT --Community Update Forum, 6-8 p.m., Schweinfurt Elementary School gym.
--“Reunion and Children” ACS reunion briefing, 6-7:30 p.m., Ledward ACS 354-6933.
--Belly Dancing class, noon, Finney Fitness Center, part of ‘I can do it’ series. Call 354-6933.
- 10 OCT --Community Update Forum, 6-8 p.m., Leighton Community Activities Center.
--“Happiness after the Homecoming” ACS reunion briefing 6 – 7:30 p.m., Ledward ACS.
- 11 OCT --“Spouse Battlemind Training” ACS reunion briefing, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Ledward ACS.
--ACS Lunch Bunch, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., meet at Ledward ACS. Call 354-6933 for information.
- 12 OCT --“Wee can do it” success series, scrapbooking, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., Leighton CDC/SAS.
--“Happiness after the Homecoming” ACS reunion briefing 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Ledward ACS.
- 17 OCT --“Take back the night” domestic violence walk, begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Commissary.
- 18 OCT --B.O.S.S. “This One’s for You” program. Music, games, educational sessions. 3-7 p.m., Finney Fitness Center.
- 19 OCT --B.O.S.S. Creepy 70s Party 5 p.m. at Finney Sports & Leisure Center.
--Harvesting Family Memories, ACS brief, 6 to 8 p.m., Yellow Ribbon Room. Call 354-6933.
- 20 OCT --MWR Family Friendly Trip to Nachmann Krystal Factory, free transportation. Call 350-6305.
--B.O.S.S. Salsa Fever concert, Finney Fitness Center, beginning at 5 p.m.
--Breast Cancer Awareness run/walk, Kessler Field, registration at 7:30 a.m., run/walk at 9 a.m.
- 22 OCT --Beginner’s German, Ledward ACS. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. M, W, F. Call 354-6933 to sign up.
- 23 OCT --Belly Dancing class, noon, Finney Fitness Center, part of ‘I can do it’ series. Call 354-6933.
- 26 OCT --Harvesting Family Memories, ACS brief, 6 to 8 p.m., Yellow Ribbon Room. Call 354-6933.
--Parents’ Night Out, 6:30 to 11 p.m. Register in person at Central Registration.
- 31 OCT --MWR Family Friendly Trip to Frankenstein’s Castle in Darmstadt. Call 350-6305.
--Reformation Day, German Holiday, concessionaires closed.
- 1 NOV --All Saints Day, German Holiday, concessionaires closed.
- 2 NOV --Thankful to be a Military Family, ACS brief, 6 to 9 p.m., Yellow Ribbon Room. 354-6933.
--Teacher work day, no school for DoDDS students.
- 3 NOV --MWR Family Friendly Trip to the Black Forest, free transportation. Call to sign up 350-6305.
- 6 NOV --Rock Climbing class, 1 p.m., Outdoor Recreation, part of the ‘I can do it’ series. Call 354-6933.
- 8 NOV --Shop Safety class at Auto Skills Center, Conn Barracks, 1 p.m., 353-8224.
- 17 NOV --MWR Family Friendly Trip to Wartburg Castle, free transportation. Call 350-6305 to sign up.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



Community gets crafty at the studio

Mikki Washburn (left) and Laura Santee, Family members of 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment submerge their wick strings into hot wax as the first step in making ice candles in a class at Schweinfurt's Arts and Crafts Studio Sept. 28.

The Arts and Crafts Studio offers several classes every week ranging from hand-weaving on the loom to molding ceramic. Trips are also planned to various craft markets, giving the community the opportunity to travel while expanding their craft repertoire. Oct. 14, the studio will travel to Sticherlein, Michelstadt for a textile market that sells items relating to sewing, lace-making, quilting, and more. The trip departs Schweinfurt at 8 a.m., returns at approximately 6 p.m., and includes a stop at a flea market

Opening hours of the studio are Wednesday and Thursday from 1 to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, or to schedule your next FRG meeting at the studio, call 354-6903 or 09721-96-6903. (Photo by Sandra Wilson)



Fall Gospel Music celebration open to community

The time is approaching for the "Fall Gospel Musical" sponsored by the Gospel Service on Ledward Barracks. All choirs, praise teams, musicians, and soloists are invited to join us Saturday, Oct. 13 at 5:30 p.m. for a spirit-filled evening of praise and worship. As Soldiers re-integrate, we are opening the doors to an evening of total praise and worship.

Chaplain Thomas and the Gospel Service invite the entire community to join this spirit-filled event.

Childcare will be provided during the event, and an evening of fellowship will follow at Rohr's Diner.



FAULENBERG

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Giebelstadt Airfield in the past year.

"The whole place has to be empty. We had to find remaining tenants new homes, then all the furniture and property book items are turned in after being cross-leveled with other installations that may want it," he said, outlining only a few requirements of shutting down an installation.

There was optimism that the kaserne might serve a useful purpose in the coming years.

"In my opinion, in Wuerzburg they can do something with the real estate. It's not like in other communities where (the installations are) just collecting dust because the infrastructure is not in place to develop them," observed James Crider, a veteran of 26 years with USAG Schweinfurt DPW.

The day was perhaps most bittersweet for Peter Bonnet, the former DPW chief of utilities at Faulenberg. Employed by the U.S. Army since 1973, Bonnet was keen to point out many innovations and maintenance projects that had taken place on the kaserne.

"When I started in 1973, we had 150 boiler firemen who shoveled coal into furnaces on Hindenberg Kaserne and Emory and Leighton Barracks. Faulenberg

used heating oil, except for building 220," he said.

He recalled the construction of the installation's transformer stations 29 years ago in order to accommodate American 110-volt requirements.

"Americans have always been fair employers and it was nice working here," Bonnet said. "And there's still much to do."

Representing American interests at the facility turnover were—ironically—mostly German employees working for the U.S. Army. They passed the keys to a group of local BIMA officials, including Hans Tranitz, chief of Wuerzburg's BIMA office, Soren Wolk and Roland Albert, facility managers, Petra Bauer, property sales, and Gregor Neeb, real estate inspector. Neeb once worked as a steam fitter on Faulenberg before moving on to a position in the German government.

Norbert Gallena, representing the Wuerzburg Staatliches Bauamt, fielded two teams of five specialized inspectors who examined not only the heat, water, electric utilities, but also the streets, water drainage and landscape. His office cleared the installation for return to the Germans.

Pressed for a comment about the number of Americans who have left the area, Gallena said, "For many years it was said 'Amis go home.' Now, for the past couple of years, it's been, 'Amis please stay.'"



SMS honor students comfort the sick



Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Spending time in a hospital because of illness, injury, or surgery can be a drag and often a lonely stint if it is for any length of time.

In efforts to curb some of the feelings associated with hospital visits, the USAG Schweinfurt has created comfort kits to give to Soldiers or Family members who are hospitalized.

“It’s a ‘Hey we’re thinking of you,’” said Karen Rose, National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) advisor.

NJHS at Schweinfurt Middle School was asked to assemble 60 of these kits as part of a service project.

The student members of NJHS gathered Wednesday afternoon to stuff bags with toiletry items like combs, razors, shampoo, toothpaste, and more, as well as a hand-made get well card.

“I would feel better if I wouldn’t have to buy all this stuff,” said EJ Bagtas, eighth-grader and student president of NJHS, judging how he would feel if he received a

kit while in the hospital.

Assembling these kits was only the beginning of a new school year of service projects for NJHS. In previous years the club has visited senior citizen homes, collected food for animal shelters, held book and clothes drives, and assisted in programs and assemblies at the school.

“You get to do things that you don’t usually do as a regular student,” said Bagtas.

Membership in NJHS also looks good on a resume, helps broaden skills and can be a stepping stone for a future job, said Rose.

“They get to see what it’s like to be in the spotlight,” said Rose. “I see them grow in their leadership abilities during the course of their time in NJHS.”

NJHS teaches students responsibility, model citizenship, and skills to become a leader and speaker. And an added bonus is how much the students enjoy being a part of the organization.

“[I like] everything we get to do with the community and the school,” said Mathieu Colon-Torres, seventh-grader.

Rafael de Almeida, seventh-grader, closes one comfort kit after packing it with toothpaste, shampoo, a get well card and various other items to be given to a hospitalized community member whenever needed.

Beginning of the end: 1-26 ADVON returns

After more than a year, there is finally a light at the end of the tunnel for the friends, Families, and Soldiers of Task Force 1-26 and the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT). Tuesday, an advance party returned home, signaling the beginning of the end of a long, difficult deployment. Lt. Col. Robert Whittle, right, kept his comments short and spirits high as he encouraged Families to “run right out there” and grab their loved ones.

The bulk of the 2nd BCT will return in November and December. (Photo by Kimberly Gearhart)





Scouts aim for 4000 reintegration packets

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Schweinfurt’s Army Community Services (ACS) is preparing reintegration packets for returning Soldiers to help ease the transition from downrange back into Family life.

In order to meet the goal of stuffing all 4,000 packets, ACS has enlisted the hands of the community’s youth to fold, stuff, and stack.

Girl, Boy, and Cub Scouts gathered yesterday afternoon in the newly renovated Yellow Ribbon Room to help out with the job.

The packets will contain a full sheet of coupons offering discounts for the theater, paintball, and arts and crafts as well as free bowling, batting cages, and bay usage at the Auto Skills Center.

“The purpose of the coupons is to get [the Soldiers] out with their families,” said Tyran Baker of ACS.

In addition to the coupons is a booklet of redeployment care tips on how to recognize stress symptoms, when to ask for outside help, and how to communicate with Family. Information about the Deployment Support Group that meets each Wednesday at ACS is also stuffed into the packets to encourage Family members and Soldiers alike to come and express concerns.

Yesterday, the determined scouts stuffed each component into large envelopes, completing 400 packets within about 30 minutes.

“We’re having a competition with our table,” said 10-year-old Britni Mosher, laughing about the speed of their work. “They’re trying to make a tower [of booklets] that will fall on me.”



From left, Girl Scouts Rebecca Davis, Britni Mosher, Amber Davis, and Janelle Bautista work fast in stuffing booklets, sheets of coupons, and Deployment Support Group flyers into large envelopes to serve as Army Community Service’s reintegration packets for Soldiers returning home from downrange.

The scouts plan to continue stuffing packets this afternoon and in the weeks to come, hopefully reaching their goal as the main body begins its return.

Command visit yields ACS, MWR chance to shine



Cathy Speer, center, whose husband Lt. Gen. Gary Speer is deputy commanding general for U.S. Army, Europe, took time Tuesday to meet with Schweinfurt ACS and MWR personnel in order to learn more about what the garrison is doing to support Families and Wounded Warriors who’ve returned.

Speer toured the new Soldier and Family Assistance Center (SFAC), located inside of the Ledward ACS, which was established to assist Wounded Warriors with concerns ranging from German appointments to meetings with legal representatives. The SFAC will eventually allow patrons to complete, via internet and web meeting software, much of their administrative paperwork in one an environment dedicated to their ease and comfort. (photo by Kimberly Gearhart)