



Fallen Sky Soldiers honored

By Mark Heeter

A seasoned combat veteran who fought as an enlisted Ranger, later as an officer and was even known to crack a tension-breaking joke or two in the heat of a fight.

A young and versatile noncommissioned officer who was a member of the elite Old Guard at Arlington National Cemetery and served in President George W. Bush's second inaugural parade.

The 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry, the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, and the Schweinfurt military community honored two Soldiers in a memorial service on Ledward Barracks yesterday.

Maj. Thomas G. Bostick Jr., 37, and Staff Sgt. William Ryan Fritsche, 23, died July 27 near Kamu, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when their unit came in contact with enemy forces using small arms fire during combat operations.

"Tom was frequently a volunteer and volunteered to come to 1-91 to help with the transformation," said Sgt. Maj. Ted Kennedy in a eulogy that was relayed at the Schweinfurt service by Sgt. Ernesto Rodriguez.

"He seemed to relish his time improving as a Soldier," said Kennedy, who met Bostick earlier in their careers in Panama. "He was fine Soldier."

Recalling details of the battle that took Bostick's life, Kennedy



Bostick

addressed his fallen comrade as a model for younger Soldiers to emulate.

"Tom, you were their example. They will always know what right looks like," he said.

"He was the quintessential commander," said Lt. Col. Christopher Kolenda, 1-91 CAV commander.

Only days before he was killed, Fritsche assumed a new, coveted position as a squad leader, following his assignment in the squadron operations section, where he "immediately made a positive impact," according to Capt. Joey Hutto.

"He was constantly assisting other sections or individual Soldiers," Hutto said, in remarks conveyed here by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Smith. Recounting how he would ask Fritsche if he was prepared for his new assignment, Hutto remembered the NCO's confident answer. "I spent five years waiting for this moment. I am fully prepared," Hutto recalled Fritsche saying.

"What impressed me most about Ryan was his versatility," Kolenda said, explaining the array of missions and assignments upon which Fritsche was called.

Bostick is survived by his wife, Jenn, and their daughters, Jessica and Ashlie.

Fritsche is survived by his wife, Brandi; his mother, Volitta; his younger brother, Thomas; his paternal grandfather; and his maternal grandparents.



Fritsche

CYS offers huge savings with Blue Star cards

By Mark Heeter

The Blue Star that hangs in the window of deployed Soldiers' Families' homes is about to take on a new meaning in Schweinfurt.

Under guidance from the Department of the Army and Installation Management Command, USAG Schweinfurt Child and Youth Services (CYS) has begun a major cost-cutting initiative for children of deployed Soldiers that allows bundles of savings on several programs.

The Army calls it 15:12, referring to 15 months deployed and 12 months at home. USAG Schweinfurt calls it the Blue Star program

"Army leadership is trying to do some things to alleviate stress. And in my arena, that involves reducing the cost of child care," said Kris Davis, acting CYC chief.

This is available immediately and affords three main fee eliminations, according to Davis.

For the duration of the Soldier's deployment, CYC offers his or her Family a 20 percent discount on regularly scheduled full- or part-time child care, free participation in two sports per child per year, and free tuition in four eight-week SKIES sessions. And the annual registration fee is also waived, Davis said.

"What we know is that when the Soldier's home, even though they're busy

and have a lot going on, still they take on some of the child care burden. So that extra support for the remaining spouse is not there when the Soldier is deployed," Davis said.

"So by reducing the cost, it helps them reduce the cost of child care if they need it or to save their money on other things to improve their quality of life," she added.

As one of the Army's highly impacted communities, the USAG Schweinfurt also receives additional flexibility to expand other services, an opportunity that Davis, her staff and community leaders are currently evaluating.

"With the discretionary part, we're

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News Briefs

Fishing license class

USAG Schweinfurt Outdoor Recreation hosts a fishing license class at Conn Barracks, Schweinfurt Friday through Sunday, Aug 10 – 12. Cost is \$60. For more information, call 353-8080.

Youth Sports and Fitness

Schweinfurt Youth Sports and Fitness currently offers three fall individual sports: in-line skating, cross country running, and golf. Sign up your kid between the ages of 8 to 18 years old. In-line skating and cross country running are free to all registered youth. Golf is \$40 to all registered youth. "Meet the Coach" for all individual sports is August 27 at Ledward Gym. For more information, call 354-6822 or 09721-966-822.

Kindergarten Readiness Camp

Do you have a child entering kindergarten this fall? USAG Schweinfurt Child and Youth Services offers Kindergarten Readiness Camp at Askren Manor's School Age Services building August 27 – 29 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Camp is free for all registered with Child and Youth Services. Camp is designed to ease the transition for both parents and children. For more information, call 354-6090 or 09721-96-6090.

Community Forum

Got questions? Get answers at the next Community Update Forum in the Schweinfurt Theater August 14 at 6 p.m. or at the Wuerzburg Community Activities Center August 15 at 6 p.m. In Wuerzburg, attendees will "show hands" to vote for their favorite AAFES eatery: Charley's or Taco Bell.

Annual bike rodeo

The Directorate of Emergency Services sponsors the annual Bike Rodeo in the Schweinfurt Elementary School parking lot on Askren Manor on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. There will be a raffle, bike registration, obstacle course, and free food. The parade for the MWR Street Fest begins at noon.

American Legion Rider

Join the American Legion in the first annual Poker Run departing from "The Place," Bensheimerstrasse, outside Funari Barracks, Mannheim on Saturday at 10 a.m. rain or shine. Maps will be available at arrival desk Entry fee is \$15 or 12 euro. Entry fee includes a ride pin and a barbeque lunch. Proceeds help support the American Legion Scholarship which provides college funds to children of fallen service members. Event is open to all German and U.S. riders, and all makes of bikes. Prizes awarded to top three hands. For information and to pre-register, contact Bob and Angie Ohlin at 0621-724-5074 or send an e-mail to

postgr07alr@yahoo.com with 'Poker Run' as the subject.

MWR STREET FEST BOOTHS

Donate marrow

Sign up for a good cause at the MWR Street Fest on Askren Manor Saturday. Sign up on the list of possible bone marrow doners and receive a free goody bag.

Cub Scout registration

Visit the cub scout registration booth at Saturday's MWR Street Fest on Askren Manor to sign up between noon and 2 p.m. Come watch the space derby hosted by Schweinfurt Cub Scout Pack 630, and get an idea of some of the fun, exciting events that the scouts participate in throughout the year.

Pet contest

Bring your dog to the MWR Street Party on Askren Manor Saturday for a variety of contests: best costume, pet that looks most like its owner, best trick, smallest paw, and longest tail. Also, see a demonstration from the Schweinfurt Military Police K-9 Unit and a German Search & Rescue Organization. Dog activities begin at 3 p.m. For more information, call the Schweinfurt Vet Clinic at 353-8359 or 09721-96-8359.

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.



- 9-12 AUG** --Bike and Music weekend at Geiselwind, concerts and motor shows. Call 09556-18-18-1.
- 10 AUG** --Last day to register for fall sports at Central Registration in The Commons or Leighton Barracks Child Development Center.
- 11 AUG** --MWR Street Party on Askren Manor, noon to 8 p.m. Live country music, featuring line dancing instruction starting at 6 p.m.
- Bone Marrow Donor Registration Drive, from 1 to 6 p.m., Askren Manor, during Street Party.
- DES Bike Rodeo, from 9 a.m. to noon, SES parking lot, then parade to MWR Street Party.
- USO Legoland Trip. Cost is 25 euro for adults, 12 euro for children. Call 354-6711.
- Soccer Game, 1. FC Schweinfurt 05 against Bayern Hof, Willi-Sachs Stadium, 3 p.m.
- 13 AUG** --ABCs of the FRGs, from 9 a.m. to noon, Ledward ACS. Call 354-6933.
- Relaxation Training, from 9 a.m. to noon, Leighton ACS. Call 350-7103.
- 13-17 AUG** --Vacation Bible School, Ledward Chapel, Ledward Barracks, Schweinfurt, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pre-register by calling 09727-909-516.
- 14 AUG** --Children's sports physicals, given after noon at the Schweinfurt Health Clinic. Call 354-7901.
- Invest with Confidence seminar, from 9 to 10:30 a.m., Ledward ACS. Call 354-6933.
- 17 AUG** --Parents' Night Out, from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Registration begins August 6. Sign up in person at Central Registration in The Commons on Ledward Barracks or the Leighton CDC.
- 20 AUG** --Registration deadline for unit level flag football. Register at Finney Fitness Center.
- 21 AUG** --3-C Problem Solving, from 12:30 to 4 p.m., Leighton ACS. Call 350-7103.
- Basic Auto Repair class, 1 p.m. at Leighton Auto Skills Center
- 22 AUG** --Leighton ACS "Lunch Bunch," from 9:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 350-7103 for information.
- 27 AUG** --First day of school for Schweinfurt Elementary and Middle Schools and Wuerzburg Elementary and High School Freshmen (28 AUG, grades 10-12).
- 27-29 AUG** --Army Family Team Building Instructor training, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Ledward Education Center. Call 354-6933 to enroll.
- 28 AUG** --Couples' Communication, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Ledward ACS. Call 354-6933 to register.
- 29 AUG** --Love and Logic 7-week course begins, from 9 to 11 a.m. SAS building, Askren Manor. Call 354-6933 to register.
- 1 SEPT** --Concert "Pflasterklang," Gutermann promenade (On Main River), 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- 2 SEPT** --Open-air play, "The Guardian of Muennerstadt," 2:30 and 8 p.m.
- 5 SEPT** --Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC) fall kick off 9 a.m. at Ledward Chapel.
- 8 SEPT** --MWR Family Friendly Trip to Strasbourg, France, free transportation. Call for more info. or to sign up 350-6305. Tourist passport required.
- 15 SEPT** --MWR Street Party on Askren Manor, noon to 8 p.m. featuring Donny Vox Band (variety rock) starting at 6 p.m.
- 3rd annual Little Miss and Mister Schweinfurt Pageant at MWR Street Party. Applications available at Ledward Thrift Store for ages infant to 19 years old, plus a Ms. Division.
- MWR Family Friendly Trip to Europa Park, free transportation, entrance fee of 30 euro per adult & 26.50 euro per child. Call for more info. or to sign up 350-6305.

Community 6 week outlook calendar

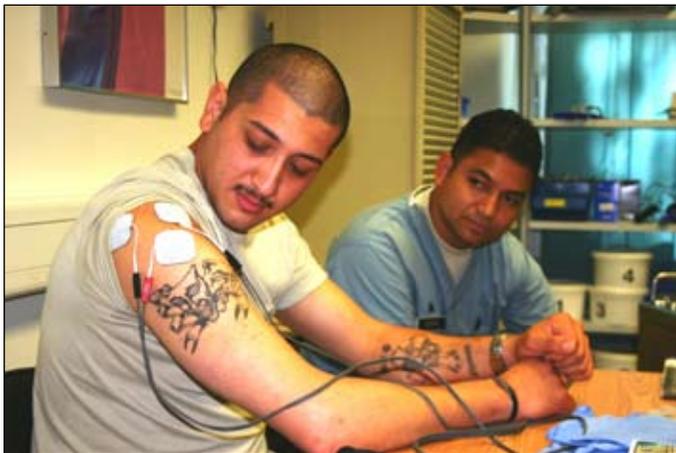


OT clinic helps Wounded Warriors heal

Story and photo by Kimberly Gearhart

Schweinfurt's Wounded Warriors have many allies in their battle to recover: Family support, weekly meetings where they can discuss their issues, and Capt. Patrice Stange.

Stange is an Occupational Therapist



Sgt. Steven Castillo watches the muscles in his arm bounce during an electric stimulation treatment supervised by Sgt. Erick Cendona at the Schweinfurt Occupational Therapy Clinic.

who, with assistance from Sgt. Erick Cendona, works with Soldiers to help them heal and regain movement, functionality, feeling, and quality of life after they have been injured.

Originally located in Wuerzburg, Stange was supposed to move to Vilseck, but with the wounded coming in to Schweinfurt, she and Lt. Col. Daniel Duecker, clinic commander, worked out a move here instead.

"The Soldiers were coming to me in Wuerzburg, so I came here to them," Stange said.

Tuesdays and Thursdays Stange does travel to Vilseck, but the rest of the week, Schweinfurt community Soldiers are her focus. Cendona notes that they see "easily" 20-25 Soldiers in a day, with appointments every 30 minutes, plus walk-ins.

"It can be fun, especially when you get everyone in here at the sametime. It's like group therapy," Cendona said. Soldiers sit around the table, giving each other support, and the occasional well-aimed jibe.

"They get a lot of support from one another," Stange agreed.

Sgt. Mike Ayrelan, from 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, receives retrograde massage and other therapies to help him recover free movement and feeling in his right arm. Ayrelan was shot in his thigh and right forearm during a firefight outside of Ramadi.

"Hopefully this will help me get some feeling back in my fingers," Ayrelan said.

For Spc. Greg Fein, from 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, loss of feeling isn't as big

a problem. One issue Fein works on is hypersensitivity in his wounded left hand. He lost part of his little finger, and the skin covering the wound is highly sensitive to touch. Acclimating to that sensitivity is just one step in his healing process.

"It's helping. It's just a slow process," Fein said.

Soldiers recovering from non-combat related injuries come to the clinic as well. Spc. Spencer Orr, from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, works with Cendona to recover full range of motion in his left hand and arm, which he injured during a motorcycle accident while on Rest and Recuperation Leave.

"I need to come up with a better story," Orr said, joking with Fein and Sgt. Steven Castillo, also from 1-18. Castillo is working to recover full use and sensation in his right shoulder and arm, often using electronic stimulation techniques.

"Which is funny, because that's how I lost feeling to begin with," he said, explaining that a power line fell on his Bradley while out on patrol.

The small clinic, located on the first floor of the Schweinfurt Health Clinic, occupies two rooms across the hall from the laboratory but may soon expand to allow for more therapy space and capabilities.

"Soldiers can be treated in place here, and can get more one-on-one care than they would at a larger facility...we brought the help to the fight," Stange said.

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going to ensure that we're meeting what the community wants," she said.

Not every installation in the Army receives the same amount of savings, based on the operational tempo of the garrison's major tenant units.

"Army leadership understands that what we are going through here is different from what they're going through on many posts. Our Families are paying a higher price right now than some others," Davis said, referring to the current deployments of both the Dagger Brigade and the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment.

While the Army leadership might have the large vision of savings, Bobbie Jones, USAG Schweinfurt School Age Services

director sees another opportunity in the program that hits just as close to home.

"We want the kids to be actively involved," Jones said. "We want the parents to see that we do recognize the situation that we're in, and that CYS is here to support them."

"Take advantage of this. This is really a great program. We're hoping that people who are using CYS will use this opportunity to at least get a taste of it, to get a feel for what CYS is about," Jones said.

The Blue Star card is available at the Commons on Ledward Barracks and the CYS center in building 185 on Leighton Barracks. Only registered children of deployed Soldiers are eligible. Parents should bring proof of the deployment—and a Leave and Earnings Statement will suffice—to the center to pick up a renewable Blue Star card, valid for three months.



Teen event busts stress in a big way

Story and photos by Mark Heeter

Thirty-one seconds to travel eight meters might not sound like much. How about traveling up the side of a rock-climbing wall?

That was 15-year-old Mario Gogan scaling the wall at the Kessler Field Friday during the summer stress buster, co-hosted by a number of local organizations.

“It’s really a team effort,” said Hal Snyder, director of Army Community Service, whose staff joined the rest of the Directorate of Morale Welfare and Recreation, Andrews Federal Credit Union, and other garrison agencies in giving teens a day of fun in the sun Friday.

“This is for all teens, not just the summer hires,” said Snyder, who estimated that nearly 100 youth came out for football, activities, lunch – and stress busting.

To participate, the teens also received passports to attend at least three of five classes. Topics were safe dating, goal setting, money management, scrapbooking, and “do unto others.”

“They all had good attendance,” Snyder said of the classes.

Buses carried the children from Ledward and Leighton Barracks to the event, which lasted much of the day and included a barbecue lunch.

In addition to the rock-climbing wall, a surfboard simulator, blow-up boxing ring, bull-riding machine, karaoke contest, and bungee trampoline were the highlights for most of the teens.

“It’s enjoyable. Most places, you just can’t come and have fun,” said partygoer MacKenzie Thies, 12.

Clockwise from top right: Mario Gogan looks down from on high after conquering the rock-climbing wall. Teens call out requests to the karaoke operator. From left, Carly Sipes, Kaylah Cousin, Amber Manchester, and Cassie Gonzales lead the crowd in that karaoke classic, “YMCA.” An unidentified teen demonstrates the laid back way to bust stress. Marcus Heikkinen flips over the bungee trampoline. Teens look through the music selection for the karaoke machine. Cody Atwell times his buddy, Jordan Lee, on the surfboard simulator. And Tylah Blaize starts his ascent under the supervision of Christian Hofstetter from Outdoor Recreation.





New York City fireman visits old haunts

By Roger Teel

Bob Wiecezak (pronounced “Wee-zak”) estimates he was one of the last Americans drafted into service as the Vietnam War came to a close. “I was number 16 in the lottery. There wasn’t much I could do about it,” he said of the selective service process at that time.

After basic training, however, Wiecezak was not sent to Southeast Asia but was routed to Harvey Barracks in Kitzingen as a private to work as a signal switch operator in late 1972.

Now 35 years later, Wiecezak and his wife Theresa, both Brooklyn, N.Y. natives, were on a long-awaited European vacation and Bob wanted Theresa to see where he served his country.

“I remember when I first got here I fell in with the wrong crowd,” Wiecezak said, recalling his arrival to Germany. “We were out on the town in Kitzingen, singing and walking down a street at about two in the morning when the Polizei showed up. The guys I was with split and left me standing there alone... The Polizei took me to the military police station on Harvey Barracks and my commander had to come get me.”

Wiecezak admitted it wasn’t the best first impression he could have made, but it made him straighten up.

“I decided to work hard and keep my nose clean so I wouldn’t end up in the stockade,” he said.

It worked. His company commander eventually saw enough positives in Wiecezak that he took him flying in a helicopter during their time off.

The Wiecezaks were on a 12-day tour of European cities when they stopped in

Wuerzburg/Kitzingen.

In Kitzingen, they stopped at the city’s tourism office and explained why they were visiting to one of the receptionists. The receptionist asked them to return in an hour, and they agreed. When they returned, Kitzingen Lord Mayor Franz Boehm presented them with a memento— a photo album— from the city.

“This is fantastic,” Wiecezak exclaimed as he toured Kitzingen. “Everything has changed, but it’s all coming back to me. Germany is such a beautiful country and Kitzingen is a wonderful city. It’s great that I had the opportunity to serve here.” “It puts things in perspective,” Theresa added. “Compared to American history, everything is so much older, so much more charming, and so well preserved.”

In her teens Theresa vacationed with her family in Italy and had not been back to Europe. Bob had not been to Europe since his departure in 1975. They married in April 1979, and have two children: a son, Bobby, who graduated from Georgetown University, and daughter, Christine, who recently graduated from Northeastern University.

“We did pretty good for a couple of middle-class kids from Brooklyn,” Wiecezak said.

While he may not have had a particularly distinguished military career (“I was two years in and gone,” he said), Wiecezak is noted for professional service to his country in another way.

As a lieutenant in the New York City Fire Department, he served his city, and his country, during the heroic rescue efforts at Ground Zero on 9/11.



Bob Gordon

Bob and Theresa Wiecezak pose like tourists on Wuerzburg’s Old Saints Bridge.

BMEDDAC captures fourth in IMCOM-Europe softball

The Bavarian Medical Department Activity’s softball team finished a respectable fourth at the Installation Management Command, Europe, unit-level finals hosted by USAG Darmstadt Aug. 3-6.

The MEDDAC team, headquartered in Wuerzburg, had previously won the USAG Schweinfurt championship by besting 69th Air Defense Artillery. They were one of 20 teams to earn a berth in the IMCOM-

Europe championships.

After round-robin play on Thursday and Friday, MEDDAC emerged as one of the top eight teams, advancing to the double-elimination round that began Saturday. Playing 10 games in three days, they exited in the semi-finals. Only three teams remained on Sunday: Heidelberg, SHAPE, and Baumholder.

“Despite injuries to several key players and being one of the smaller units in the

tournament, we managed to emerge from pool play and knock off several contenders before losing in the semi-finals,” said player and coach Travis Slone.

Team members are: Keith Seidler, Bryan King, Travis Slone, Elvis Rubio, John Dempsey, Corey McKinney, Jason Bernard, Gary Taylor, Joseph De Leon, Jeffery Johnson, Brian Wiltrout, Jose Perez, Castin Russell, Salvatore Digiacamò, and Terry Moren.



1-91 CAV secures pastures of Nuristan

Story and photo by Army Sgt. Brandon Aird
173rd ABCT Public Affairs

NURISTAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Sailing through the clouds, Soldiers from the Afghan National Army and Task Force Saber air-assaulted onto landing zone (LZ) Shetland July 19 during Operation Saray Has.

The LZ was located in a large meadow near the top of a mountain.



A Soldier from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment (Airborne), 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, watches cattle scatter while a CH-47 helicopter prepares to land on landing zone Shetland during Operation Saray Has July 19 near Forward Operating Base Naray, Afghanistan.

Local Afghans use the area as a grazing pasture for livestock while Taliban extremists often use it to stage attacks against TF Saber.

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop (HHT), 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment (Airborne), 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, and the Afghan 3rd Kandak, 201st Corps executed a reconnaissance mission to determine the point of origin of rockets that were fired at Forward Operating Base Naray injuring several Soldiers a few weeks prior.

“We came up here to confirm or deny enemy-use of the hilltop,” said Army 1st Lt. Chris Richelderfer, HHT executive officer.

After air-assaulting onto the mountain, a patrol was dispatched to an adjacent mountain to scout out the terrain and possible enemy positions.

The rest of the Soldiers secured the area while Army Capt. Nathan Springer, HHT commander, along with the Naray district Sub-Gov. SamShu Rochman spoke with the local populace.

“I wanted the local government to have the lead when talking with the locals,” said Springer.

While Rochman and Springer were speaking with villagers, wood smugglers accidentally walked their donkeys carrying stolen wood into the meadow.

“The wood on the donkeys had been stolen from the Naray lumber yard two days before our mission,” said Springer.

Rochman was adamant about bringing the wood smugglers to justice. The wood smugglers were brought off the mountain, back to Naray to face prosecution.

Operation Saray Has was more productive than both Springer and Rochman had planned.

“It validated the need to conduct future operations in the area to deny [Taliban extremists] that terrain,” said Springer.

Local teen’s artwork honors Soldiers

Story and photo by Kimberly Gearhart

In order to maintain force protection outside the Central Issue Facility (CIF) building on Conn Annex, a sectional concrete wall was erected to protect the facility and the Soldiers utilizing CIF services from being seen from the busy public road just outside the fence. Force protection goals were met, but there was one problem.

“The wall was ugly and an eye sore,” said Loyd Clubb, plans and operations officer with the Directorate of Logistics here in Schweinfurt.

This is where Steven Sheldon comes in.

Sheldon, a 17 year old high school student and Family member with the 9th Engineer Battalion, is known locally for his artistic mural work. He has painted murals for Club Beyond and the Teen Center in

Schweinfurt and completed work at other duty stations as well.

“Mr. Loyd called me and said they’ve got this wall they need to paint, and he wanted me to paint it because he’d heard good things about my work,” Sheldon explained.

The design was left up to Sheldon’s discretion. His father had just re-enlisted,



Sheldon sketches his artwork on the new wall near Central Issue Facility (CIF) on Conn Annex. After being asked to paint the wall, he chose to depict enlistment and service.

so Sheldon hit on a theme of enlistment and service. The paneled wall follows a Soldier from his initial swearing-in through

basic training, graduation, deployment, and war. Sheldon plans to show his Soldier receiving awards for his service as well.

Sheldon enlisted the help of teens involved in the summer hire program to complete the painting. Before taking out the paint, he penciled the design on the wall, working from his sketch book.

The completed mural will read from right to left so that viewers travel through the story as they walk from the facility entrance down the length of the wall.

Sheldon hopes that Soldiers will be pleased with his tribute but says his biggest inspiration is someone that will never see the finished work.

“My neighbor’s husband died in Iraq right before I was asked to do this wall. He was a good man. They are all good men. This is a chance to reflect, to honor that,” Sheldon said.