



Buckle up... or else

By Mark Heeter

Imagine trying to the force of 4,500 pounds per square inch coming at you at 200 mph.

You just imagined the potential force of an air bag opening at, yes, 200 mph, in a crash where 150-pound driver was stopped at 30 mph.

"Just put on your seat belt. You don't know how much of a positive thing you're doing by just doing that," said Staff Sgt. John Luerding, traffic management and accident investigator with the USAG Schweinfurt Directorate of Emergency Services.

Luerding and his fellow military police officers will be out this weekend for the latest "Click it or Ticket" campaign, which

targets drivers without seat belts.

"Our successes are measurable," Luerding said of the program, noting that MPs record all the vehicles in a given spot over an hour observation.

"Most of the community, on an installation, do wear their seat belts," he said.

Even without being involved in an accident, drivers can feel the pain if they are caught on post without buckling up. The first offense is an automatic suspension of USAREUR driving privileges for seven



days and a two-point violation.

"If they get 6 points in less than 12 months, they lose their license for 30 days," Luerding said, adding that this campaign usually takes place on long weekends and has met with success in the past.

"That's when the military community, and I'm speaking of families, are together, and that's when they travel together," he said.

Throughout the weekend, drivers can expect to see military police at locations selected based on the amount of traffic they have at various times throughout the day, Luerding said.

"For your own safety, wear your seat belt. It's not for us. It's for them," said Capt. Lid Ryan, DES director.

Women's history takes center stage here

By Mark Heeter

The USAG Schweinfurt celebration of Women's History Month is in full swing next week, beginning with a women's history celebration luncheon Tuesday.

Carol Haager is the keynote speaker at the luncheon, scheduled for 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Community Club on Conn Barracks.

"We do it, we have women's history month, to celebrate what we women do," said Deborah Lawson, the federal women's program manager for the Schweinfurt community.

In addition to the luncheon, the community will offer a professional development tracks, or training, to help women improve their prospects in the

workforce.

Following an effective leadership track that took place yesterday, three tracks are scheduled for next week.

All offered from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., the AKO Training Opportunities, Computer 101, and "Dress for Success" tracks are offered Wednesday through Friday, respectively.

"We want to encourage these women who want to know about career tracking and want to advance themselves, that this is the way to go," Lawson said.

For more information about the tracks, or to RSVP for the luncheon, which is free of charge, email deborah.lawson@us.army.mil, bonnie.cornelison@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil, or call 354-6955/6279 or 09721-96-6955/6279.



Under the watchful eye of fire inspector Ralph Metz, Spc. Christen Siegel, Headquarters and headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, demonstrates proper fire extinguishing techniques. About 150 Soldiers participated in the 2nd BCT safety day today (Photo by Mark Heeter).



News Briefs

Memorial Ceremony

The memorial ceremony for Staff Sgt. Karl O. Sotopinedo, of Company A, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, will be held March 21 at 10 a.m. at the Ledward Chapel. The uniform for military attendees is duty (ACUs), and for civilian attendees it is business casual. Immediately after the ceremony, an open reception will be held in the Ledward Chapel fellowship room.



Brewery Tour

Join Ledward and Leighton ACS on a tour of the Würzburger Hofbrau Brewery Monday, March 19 from 10 a.m. to noon. Transportation is provided. Bus will pick up from Ledward ACS at 8:30 a.m. and Leighton ACS at 9:15 a.m. Cost is 2 euro per person which must be paid in advance. Call for more information or to sign up: Ledward 354-6933 or 09721-96-6751, Leighton 350-7103 or 0931-889-7103.

Luck 'O the Irish Bingo

AFN Franconia will sponsor a Bingo tomorrow Wuerzburg Community Activity Center on Leighton Barracks from 6 to 10 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. for food, and the games begin at 7 p.m.

Easter Market

Visit an Easter Market with the Craft Studio March 18 in Zeigenhain in Schwal stad. The Crafts Studio, in building 203 on Ledward Barracks, sponsors trips to different markets each Sunday. Trips depart from the Crafts Studio 8 a.m. and return around 6 p.m. Sign-up fee is \$5.



Bus schedule changes

The shuttle buses in Schweinfurt will operate on a weekend schedule tomorrow, while the Wuerzburg buses will operate on a normal schedule.

ACS Lunch Bunch

The ACS Lunch Bunch meets Thursday, March 22 at 11 a.m. at ACS or 11:30 at Fränkischer Hof located at Würzburger Strasse 22, Geldersheim Budget & family friendly "lunch outings" with help of a local national. Bring euros for lunch Please RSVP with ACS at 09721-96-6933

Reminder -- DOL closed

The USAG Schweinfurt Directorate of Logistics and its support organizations will be closed for their annual training day March 16. This closure includes the property book office, central issue facility, transportation motor pool, drivers' testing, transportation and movements, vehicle and

weapons registration, and the food services branch administrative office, and the DOL administrative office.

3 Day FRG/FRL Training

Join Leighton ACS for a three-day Family Readiness Group and Family Readiness Liaison Training for useful information that can help you build a stronger and more effective FRG. Training is held March 21 – 23 at Leighton Barracks, building 14, room 112. Day one and three run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and day two runs from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call to for more information or to sign up 350-7103 0931-889-7103.

Family Bowling Tournament



Come to Kessler Bowling Center for a St. Patrick's Day special on 40 frames (or four games) March 17. The tournament is fun for the whole family. Play four games for only \$15. Call for more information 354-6332 or 09721-83391.

New email address

To submit content for the USAG Schweinfurt command information channel, SMC-TV, please send your slides to the new address: mail.sft.pao@eur.army.mil

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.



Community 6 week outlook calendar

- 17 MAR** --St. Patrick's Day party, Leighton Community Activities Center, 4:30 p.m. Free admission.
- Family Friendly Trip, Nachtmann Crystal Factory. Sign up in advance, call 354-6715.
- 40-frame family bowling tournament, play 4 games for \$15, call 354-6332.
- Parents day out respite care in Schweinfurt & Leighton, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sign up now until March 14 in person or call for more info., 354-6517 or 350-7762.
- SAS special Saturday opening in Schweinfurt, "Plant seeds," 9 a.m. to noon, call 354-6974.
- 18 MAR** --Easter market trip to Zeigenhain, call Arts and crafts for more info., 354-6903.
- 19 MAR** --Würzburger Hofbrau Brewery Tour, 10 to noon, transportation provided. Call 354-6933.
- 22 MAR** --Computer 101 basic skills class, Schweinfurt Commons, Ledward Barracks, 11:30 a.m.
- Family Fun Bingo, Schweinfurt Elementary School, 5 p.m.
- 24 MAR** --USO Shopping express trip to Cheb. \$30 per seat. Call 354-6711 for more information.
- Family Friendly Trip, Polish Pottery shopping. Sign up in advance, call 354-6715.
- Racquetball tournament at Kessler fitness center for ages 18 & older. Call 354-6735.
- Miss Middle School Zone pageant, 6 p.m. Call for more info. 354-6308.
- Teen Center all-area lock-in, register by March 14. Call 354-6732.
- 25 MAR** --Family Day at Kessler bowling center. Games \$1.50 for adults & \$1 kids 17 and under.
- 30 MAR** --SMS/MSZ youth dance, 6 - 9 p.m. Call for more info. 354-6308.
- 31 MAR** --American Red Cross class: Adult, infant, & child CPR with adult AED in Leighton Yellow Ribbon Room, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call to sign up 354-1760.
- Kinderfest, Askren Manor, from 2 to 5 p.m. Kick off the Month of the Military child!
- Bowling Championship team try-outs. Kessler Bowling Center. Sign-ups begin at 10:45.
- Spring Craft fair at Schweinfurt Elementary School, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 1 APR** --Easter market trip to Mardorf, call Arts and crafts for more info., 354-6903.
- 6-15 APR** -- Club Beyond travels to Slovakia for a week-long service project. For info call 0160-331-9404 or email beth_bailey@yahoo.com.
- 14 APR** --Fishing trip with MWR to Gersfeld, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call for more info. 353-8476.
- 10-12 APR** --Teen Center spring break trip to Garmisch, \$60. Call for more info., 354-6732.
- 29 APR** --Fishing trip with MWR to Gersfeld, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call for more info. 353-8476.



Family brings promotion closer to home for Dagger NCO

Story and photo by Pfc. William Hatton
7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – With family and friends far away during a deployment, Soldiers typically bond together to get through the rough days.

Although having family close would be nice, most troops can barely picture what it would be like to have their mom or sister in a combat zone with them.

For Staff Sgt. Gary Fink, an intelligence analyst with Company C, 101st Military Intelligence Battalion, 2nd “Dagger” Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, not only is his mother in country with him, she was also the one who promoted him to staff sergeant March 1.

“The only thing my mom has been able to come to was my graduation at Fort Jackson, so its great that she’s able to be here and be the one to pin me,” said Fink, a native of Munford, Ala.

Fink’s mother, Linda Pegg, works for Kellogg, Brown, and Root, a company contracted with the Army that provides Soldiers with various goods and services in Iraq, Fink said.

His mother works in a Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent at Camp Taji, Iraq, and



Linda Pegg, a contract employee working in Iraq, had the special opportunity to pin staff sergeant rank insignia on her son, Staff Sgt. Gary Fink, during a special ceremony March 1.

her being so close, Fink has been able to keep in close contact during his deployment, he said.

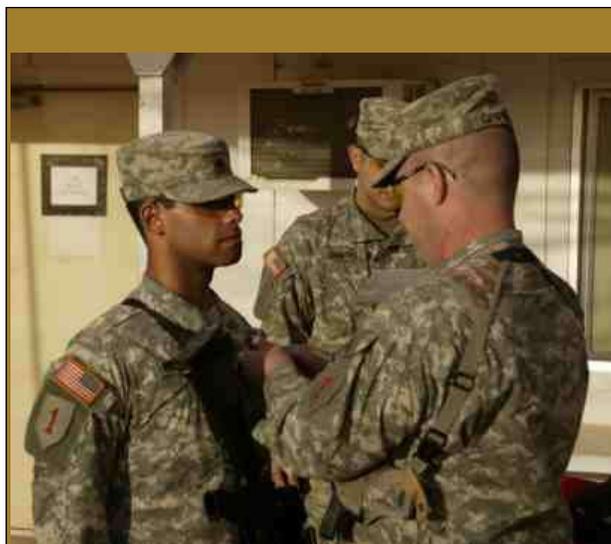
With his promotion coming up, it only seemed right to have his mother do it, because she was close, Fink said.

Feelings and emotions were very high leading up to the ceremony, said Pegg, also

a native of Munford, Ala. “I was honored to be apart of it,” she added.

“I’m just very, very proud of my son,” Pegg said.

After hard work and beneficial help from leaders on Camp Taji and Camp Liberty, Fink was able to be promoted and spend quality time with his mom.



Heading off to school

Lt. Col. Michael Griffith pins the Army Commendation Medal on Sgt. Renee Rodriguez at Camp Liberty, Iraq March 4. Sgt. Rodriguez, scheduled to attend Officer Candidate School in April, was also nominated to attend the Non-Commissioned Officer of the Month board for January. Despite his selection to OCS, Rodriguez insisted on attending the board to set an example for the subordinates of his section. (US Army photo by Capt. Matthew Angliss, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery)



Information available in the Community Info Vault at:

www.schweinfurt.army.mil

- USAG Schweinfurt phone book
- Community Update Forum slides
- ACS calendar
- Policy letters
- Middle School Zone newsletter
- And much more!



Month of the American Red Cross

Story and photo
by Sandra Wilson

In almost 200 countries, a Red Cross, Red Crescent or equivalent society works to alleviate human suffering.

The American Red Cross (ARC) has been around for 126 years. Most people know it as a relief organization that helps during war or disaster, but have you ever wondered what the organization can do for you here in Schweinfurt or Würzburg?

In the past year, the Schweinfurt station has responded to local emergencies in housing, assisted six military families, trained 323 people in lifesaving skills, and processed 786 emergency messages.

Among its worldwide duties, the ARC has a special job with the military by providing armed forces emergency services.

One of its functions is designed to open up options when financial crises arise. In case there is a need for financial assistance during an emergency,



Red Cross class participants learn how to apply CPR to an infant. When the class is completed, students are certified and have the knowledge of how to administer life-saving techniques in emergency situations.

the ARC will provide access to various agencies, like AER.

Another role involves sending messages overseas to Soldiers, family members and Department of Defense civilians.

When an emergency happens and a message needs to be sent immediately, the Red Cross is available to provide an avenue of communication.

These messages can be sent in situations such as a death or illness of a family member

or grandparent, breakdown in childcare, or financial hardship, as well as non-emergency situations.

In addition to sending messages and providing assistance in locating emergency funds, Red Cross also holds lifesaving courses in Schweinfurt and Würzburg. These classes include first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) training.

More than 10 million people learned lifesaving skills last year through their local Red Cross.

“The classes are helpful in educating people on how to respond in emergency situations until professional medical help arrives,” said Hope Rodgers, the records chairperson who has volunteered for seven years at the ARC in Schweinfurt.

“If you happen to be in the right place at the right time, you will be more than qualified to give (help),” she said.

More than a million people give their time to make their neighbors—across street or across the country— safer by volunteering for the American Red Cross.

“Without volunteers, it wouldn’t be able to function,” said Kristy Balli, station manager for American Red Cross in Schweinfurt.

Call the American Red Cross in Schweinfurt to find out where you can volunteer, 354-1760 or 09721-96-1760.

Helping the Army take care of its own: AER campaign kicks off

By Kimberly Gearhart

The annual Army Emergency Relief (AER) fundraising drive is off and running in USAG Schweinfurt. Unit representatives have been trained, allotment forms are available, and the local AER office is ready to process donations.

But what, exactly, is the AER?

“The AER was formed in 1942, and the purpose was to prevent ‘passing the hat’ when something happened to a Soldier,” said Mike Bunker, USAG Schweinfurt AER program manager, referring to the practice of taking up collections for Soldiers in need.

By initiating a formal program to assist Soldiers in emergency situations, AER created a more stable way of assisting Soldiers that fall on hard times.

Funds are distributed to assist active duty Soldiers and dependents, as well as retirees and National Guard members who find themselves in emergency need of financial assistance.

“The funds are for food, car repairs, emergency travel is number one though,” Bunker said. AER can also assist with medical bills or funeral costs, and more.

Each case is evaluated on its own merits. Financial assistance is most often distributed as an interest-free loan, but grants are possible, if repayment would further complicate the Soldier’s situation.

The local AER office is located with Army Community Services (ACS). Bunker, who has headed the AER here in Schweinfurt since 1989, will retire soon, but AER services will not be affected. Nancy Martel will be handling AER operations

beginning in April.

“It’s important to know, though, that even if I am not here, there is always someone here that can assist Soldiers in need of AER. There is always someone here that can issue a check for those in need,” Martel said.

Along with emergency relief loans, AER also offers tuition assistance and scholarship programs.

“The Spouse Education Assistance Program ... started seven or eight years ago in the orient. Now you need an education to get your foot in the door anywhere. Those that apply, if they complete the application correctly, will get money,” Bunker said.

For more information, stop by the local AER office, or call 09721-96-7071 or 354-7071.