



Schweinfurt Dispatch

Serving the Military Community of Schweinfurt

Feb. 1, 2007



Hill remembered as 'informal leader'

story by Mark Heeter

Pfc. Ryan Hill would give you the clothes off his back or his mattress to sleep on. Well, maybe not HIS mattress.

As part of a friendly battle of exchanged practical jokes, Hill was generous with Pfc. Daniel Agami's belongings; all in good fun.

"He was one of the wittiest and funniest men I ever met," Agami recalled.

During a memorial ceremony for Hill at the Ledward Barracks Tuesday, Staff Sgt. Raja Richardson read remarks that Agami made during an earlier service in Taji, Iraq, Jan. 27.

Hill, 20, of Keizer, Ore., died Jan. 20 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee. He was assigned to Company

C, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment.

"He was one of the most squared away guys the Army had to offer," Agami said through Richardson.

"He was, as he liked to put it, a road-marching fool," Agami said, noting that Hill never failed a PT test or dropped out of a running formation. But the young warrior had another side.

"He enjoyed poetry, especially poetry about the American fighting man," said Capt. Jacob White, who relayed the remarks that Capt. Michael Baka, the Company C commander, delivered at the Taji memorial.

"You will always hold a place in our heart, and we will honor your memory in all we do," Baka said, addressing Hill.

White also offered the remarks of Lt. Col. Eric Schacht, the Task Force 1-26

commander.

"Ryan Hill was an informal leader and daily example to those all around him," Schacht said.

"Ryan, like those of us gathered here," Schacht said to his formation, "chose the path of selfless service."

Known to his comrades for his wit, Hill was also recalled as devoted to the family who survives him, including his parents, Hilario and Shawna Hill, and his sister, Cassandra Ramos.



Hill

Schweinfurt bids farewell to ETG CSM Ford

story and photo by Mark Heeter

The 417th Base Support Battalion deactivated during his tenure there. Then the 98th Area Support Group disappeared, too. And the Europe Transition

Group (Nordbayern) (Provisional) is not far behind.

After accepting the job to become the top noncommissioned officer at the USAG Benelux, Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Ford had a message

for his new command.

"You just wait a while. Benelux may be going away," Ford recalled to the amused crowd at his farewell ceremony in the Ledward Theater Jan. 31.

"This was truly a blessing for me and my family," Ford said of his time in Lower Franconia.

After being presented a couple of gifts from the Soldiers and noncommissioned officers with whom he served, Ford offered some anecdotes and advice.

"Leaders who have leaders are fortunate," was one of the several quotable favorites that Ford

has picked up along the way, along with rich experiences like one story he told.

About 15 years ago, when Ford was a young sergeant, he met a young Soldier and his family fresh at the reception station.

The Soldier was having trouble with finance, so Sgt. Ford treated him and his family to an all-expense paid trip through the commissary.

The young Soldier, now an NCO himself, called Ford about two months ago.

"He never forgot that day," Ford said, adding that his days as a drill sergeant taught him valuable lessons about leadership.

"Every day, I can have gratification in my job," said Ford, who had served in the 98th ASG, USAG Franconia and ETG since July 2005.



Command Sgt. Maj. Keith McMullen, right, sheaths a sword before presenting it as a gift to Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Ford.



News Briefs

Family friendly trip-- Wasserkuppe skiing

USAG Schweinfurt Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) has organized a trip to the Rhoen. Sledding, skiing, snowboarding and more await you Feb. 10! Trip will depart from Schweinfurt and Wuerzburg and is dependent upon snow conditions. For more details, or to sign up, call 350-6305 or 0931-889-6305.

Unit-level basketball championships

Finney Fitness center hosts the 2007 unit-level basketball championships Feb. 10-11. This double-elimination tournament is for all unit-level teams in Schweinfurt and Wuerzburg. The top team will advance to the IMCOM Unit-Level Basketball Championships in Wiesbaden, Mar. 1-4. Call the fitness center for more information and to register, 353-8234.

Valentine's Day parents' night out Sign-up ends Tuesday

Enjoy dinner out with your special someone or treat yourself to a movie, whatever you do, don't miss out on this special USAG Schweinfurt Child and Youth Services outreach program Feb. 14,

from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Stop by Central Registration in The Commons on Ledward Barracks, pick up your Deployment Card, and sign up a night off! You must use your Deployment Card for this event. Registration for this special event is open through Feb. 6. Call 354-6517 or 09721-96-6517 for more information, but you must register in person.

AFAP issue forms needed

The Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) is your chance to be heard, don't miss it. Pick up an issue form from the Army Community Service Center (ACSC) and tell us what you think could use improvement in our military community, and tell us how you

think it should be improved. You can find issue form drop boxes at the Community Mail Rooms, Yellow Ribbon Rooms, the library, the Commons, and ACSC, or you can mail them in. For more information, call 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.

Get oriented with SNAPS

USAG Schweinfurt Army Community Services (ACS) offers the Schweinfurt Newcomer Awareness Program for Spouses (SNAPS) to help newly arrived families more comfortable. February's program runs Feb. 5-9. Child care is provided for children registered with Child & Youth Services. For more information, call 354-6751 or 09721-966751.

USAHC-Schweinfurt



Feb 2nd, 2007 is the National Day of Awareness for
Women and Heart Disease



Quick Facts about Heart Disease & Stroke

- heart disease is women's No. 1 killer
- Cardiovascular disease (CVD) kills 480,000 women a year, about one per minute
- One in 2.6 female deaths are from CVD, compared with one in 30 from breast cancer
- Heart disease rates in post-menopausal women are two to three times higher than in pre-menopausal women of the same age
- Stroke is the No. 3 cause of death for American women, and is a leading cause of serious, long-term disability
- Stroke kills more women than men

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 bi-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: Mark.Heeter@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil or elvira.gladwell@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil.

For more information about the Schweinfurt Dispatch, or to reach the USAG Schweinfurt public affairs office, call 354-1600/6381 or (09721) 961600/966381.



- 2 FEB** – Schweinfurt Elementary closed for parent/teacher conferences
- 3 FEB** – Black Forest Family Friendly Trip
Bring euro and VAT forms, call 354-6715 to sign up.
– Aerobathon, Kessler Fitness Center
- 4 FEB** – Superbowl Party, Leighton Community Activities Center
Call 350-6305 for more details
- 5 FEB** – Schweinfurt Newcomer Awareness Program for Spouses (SNAPS)
begins, runs daily through Feb. 9. Call 354-6933 for more information.
- 6 FEB** – Parenting Teenagers class, 6-7:30 p.m., Leighton ACS, call 350-7103 to sign up.
- 7 FEB** – Fahrenheit 451 English language performance, Stadt Schweinfurt Theater
- 8 FEB** – Night Skiing at the Wasserkuppe, 5 p.m., departs from Conn Outdoor Recreation
Cost is \$20 with equipment, \$10 without
– Pagemaster’s After School Club, 3:30 p.m., Ledward Library grades 3-6
- 10 FEB** – Wasserkuppe Skiing
Depends on snow, call 354-6715 to sign up.
- 12 FEB** – Point of Contact (POC) training, 9-11 a.m., Yellow Ribbon Room, Bldg 20, Ledward Barracks
Call 354-6751 to sign up.
– Stress Management class, 9 a.m. to noon, Leighton ACS, Bldg 14. Call 350-7103 to sign up.
- 13 FEB** – Parenting Skills, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Leighton ACS, call 350-7103 to sign up.
- 14 FEB** – Special CYS parent’s night out, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Sign up at CER
Must use Deployment Care card, sign up ends Feb. 6
-- Smooth Move Seminar, 9 a.m. to noon, Ledward ACS, Bldg 242, call 354-6751 to sign up.
--VA Benefits briefing, 8 a.m. to noon, bldg 290, Ledward Barracks, call 354-6019.
- 16 FEB** – CYS regular parent’s night out, 6:30-11:30 p.m., Sign up at CER
Sign up begins Feb. 5
– Italy Ski Safari, departs 5:30 a.m. on Friday, returns late night Monday, \$269
- 24 FEB** – Czech Republic Shopping Trip
Passport required, call 354-6715 to sign up.
- 27 FEB** – AFAP Conference begins, Conn Barracks, get in your issue form today. Call 354-6933 for info.
- 28 FEB** – Mardi Gras Party, Leighton Community Activities Center, call 350-6305 for info.
- 3 MAR** – Winter Kid’s Festival, Conn Barracks
- 9-11 MAR** – Leighton Spring Bazaar, Leighton Fitness Center



Shop for uniquely European gifts at the Leighton Spring Bazaar.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



Elementary, middle school youth S-P-E-L-L fun

Spelling bee winners advance to Ramstein in March



Schweinfurt Elementary School held a spelling bee in the cafeteria Jan. 25. Heather Miska, right, third grade, correctly spelled “pretzel” to win the title of schoolwide champion, beating out 29 other contestants. Steven Pedroza, left, fifth grade, was declared 2nd place runner-up. Miska will go to the next competition held in Ramstein March 17.

photos by Sandra Wilson

Schweinfurt Middle School held their spelling bee Jan. 30 in the school gym. Members of the 9th Engineer Battalion (below) judged a field of 15 contestants, five from each grade. Lisa Ledford (right), eighth grade, proved herself the top speller in school, correctly spelling “agile” to win. Seventh-grader Ryle Francisco and sixth-grader Stephanie Miller were 2nd and 3rd runner-up. Ledford will go on to compete March 17 in Ramstein with other finalists from DoD schools around Europe.





Food drop ops foster goodwill in West Baghdad

1-7 FA Soldiers bring food, hope

story by Capt. Warrick Craig, 1-7 Field Artillery

Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers, working together with Iraqi security forces over the past three weeks, have established relationships between the Iraqi troops and residents of western Baghdad.

A large part of the effort by troops from 3rd Brigade 6th Iraqi Army Division and 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, have been organizing food drops to underprivileged residents in western Baghdad.

They conducted their second food drop to area Jan. 10.

Iraqi and U.S. troops have worked with local leaders to find which local residents were in most need of the supplies.

“We love helping our people,” said Iraqi Army Lt. Abass, “They are part of us and when they need help, we will be here to provide it.”

Local residents have been more willing to cooperate with Iraqi security forces, which has led to the detention of two individuals who were on the Iraqi Army’s wanted list since the food drop operations began.



photo by Spc. Terry Self
An Iraqi soldier helps a woman carry a sack of flour during a food drop to needy residents of a western Baghdad neighborhood Jan. 10.

299th FSB and 1-7 FA Soldiers offer medical support

Quality of life improvement is goal in west Baghdad neighborhood



story and photo by Capt. Warrick Craig, 1-7 Field Artillery

Army physical therapist, Capt. Christopher Flaugh from the 299th Forward Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, conducts an initial assessment of a disabled Iraqi man. The man was injured two years ago during an insurgent shooting near Baghdad

Even though he will probably not walk again, the therapy sessions improve his quality of life and help him cope with his condition.

Flaugh and other Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment conducted the medical support operation to help improve the quality of life for local residents in a western Baghdad neighborhood.

The mission has helped the U.S. and Iraqi forces gain support among residents.