



Conference gives community a voice

Story and photos by Mark Heeter



Lt. Col. Anthony Haager, USAG Schweinfurt commander, addresses the AFAP conference participants.

Once a year, the Army gives members of its family a chance and an official channel to speak up. That time is now.

The USAG Schweinfurt Army Family Action Plan conference concludes today, culminating three days of sifting through 72 issues that people throughout the community submitted for the command's attention.

"The main issues we decide today will go forward," said Lt. Col. Anthony Haager, USAG Schweinfurt commander, who addressed the conference delegates, staff and subject-matter experts Tuesday morning.

"What we do here could be groundbreaking work," Haager said, referring to the many issues over the years that have begun in AFAP conferences and worked their way through the halls of the Pentagon and the Capitol to become regulatory

changes or new legislation.

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, military Thrift Savings Plan, and Army Family Team Building programs are just a few of the programs that began as issue submissions at AFAP conferences, he said.

Delegates were selected from several segments of the local population, including Soldiers, family members, retirees and civilian employees. They were then broken into four groups to tackle the dozens of issues that conference coordinators solicited over the past two months.

"Each member of the group comes from a different portion of the community, and I think that's valuable," said Kathleen Whittle, a family member who was involved in her first AFAP conference.

"It is the most productive way in the

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Delegate Kathleen Whittle takes notes during issue discussions.



Capt. Scott Wilt, USAG Schweinfurt adjutant, serves as a subject-matter expert and discusses a potential issue about passports with a group of AFAP conference delegates.

Only you can prevent kitchen fires, according to fire officials

By Mark Heeter

About 70 percent of fires start in the kitchen, said Ralph Metz, inspector with the USAG Schweinfurt fire department.

Victims often underestimate the speed with which a fire can ignite, and leave the kitchen once the burner gets warmed

up, according to Metz.

"Grease can start, depending on the heat, in about a minute. It depends on how intense the heat is – a minute, minute-and-a-half," Metz said.

"A lot of people don't realize how quickly oil or grease can ignite," he said.

A second mistake is trying

to put out a fire with the wrong material, according to Frank Drexler, another fire inspector.

"Never use water on a grease fire," Drexler said, because the reaction causes a hot flash and explosion. Absent a fire extinguisher, either baking soda or a lid from the pot or pan is most effective, he said.

Over the past several years, during standard improvements to the Army family housing areas, self-extinguisher systems were installed.

"But out on the economy, we don't have that," Metz said, citing the lack of enforcement over safety measures in private housing.



First aid class

American Red Cross of Schweinfurt offers a standard first aid class March 8 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Red Cross conference room, Ledward Barracks building 206, in the basement. Class includes adult, infant and child CPR. Cost is \$45. Call to reserve a seat, 354-1760 or 09721-96-1760.



The Red Cross first aid class uses state-of-the-art mannequins, like this infant model, for CPR training. Sign-ups for next class are ongoing now.

Community orientations

USAG Schweinfurt Army Community Services (ACS) offers the Schweinfurt Newcomer Awareness Program for Spouses (SNAPS), and the Newcomers Orientation and Welcome (NOW) in the Wuerzburg area. This month's program runs March 5-9. For more information, call 09721-96-6933 in Schweinfurt or 0931-889-7103 in Wuerzburg.

Leighton gate closed

The Leighton Community Headquarters gate onto Leighton Barracks will be closed to traffic Tuesday, March 6, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. while a planned and approved demonstration takes place outside the gate. This action has been taken to ensure the safety and security of all personnel.

Conn gate changes

Due to a construction project intended to improve the flow of traffic, the main gate onto Conn Barracks, Schweinfurt is now closed to all traffic. Both the East and Geldersheim gates are open to all vehicle traffic, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Winter Fest

The USAG Schweinfurt Morale, Welfare and Recreation division will host a Winter Fest March 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Finney Fitness Center. Free food, magicians, games, climbing wall, paintball, electric bull riding, arts and crafts, and an obstacle course and more! For more information, call 354-6715 or 09721-96-6715.

Keep Tricare in the loop

As military families move, the Tricare service center reminds customers to keep them informed and keep information updated in the DEERS system. Call 0931-804-2200/3372 to update your address.

National Prayer Breakfast

The USAG Schweinfurt Office of the Community Chapel sponsors a national prayer breakfast at the Café Rohr on Ledward Barracks, March 6 from 8 to 9:30 a.m. The guest speaker at the event is Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Paul Bradford. For information, call 354-1570 or 09721-96-1570.

DOL offices 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, the food services branch administrative office, and the DOL administrative office.

High school sensing session

Based on customer feedback, the USAG Schweinfurt will hold a High School town hall sensing session with BG Boozer at the Schweinfurt Elementary School on March 5 at 6 p.m. Parents who have high school children or children in the 8th grade this year that will be attending high school next year are invited to attend and voice their opinion on where they want their child to attend school next year.

Schweinfurt Dispatch



Commander Lt. Col. Anthony Haager
Command Sgt Maj. CSM Keith McMullen
Public Affairs Officer George Ohl
Command Information Officer Mark Heeter
Writer/Editors Kimberly Gearhart
Elvira Gladwell
Sandra Wilson

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.



Community 6 week outlook calendar

- 2 MAR** --Women’s Histroy Month Tea, Leighton Community Activities Center, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
--Principal’s Coffee, Schweinfurt Elementary, 8:15 a.m. Call 09721-81893 for information.
- 3 MAR** --Winter Fest, Finney Fitness Center, Conn Barracks, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
--Family Friendly Trip to Wilhelma Zoo, free transportation, bring Euro for fees. Call 350-6305 or 0931-889-6305 to reserve your seat.
- 6 MAR** --Community National Prayer Breakfast, 8-9:30 a.m., Rohr’s Cafe.
- 8 MAR** --Federal Resume 101 at Schweinfurt ACSC, Ledward Barracks, 11:30 a.m.
- 9-11 MAR** --Leighton Spring Bazaar, Leighton Fitness Center
- 10 MAR** --No-cost child care, Leighton CDC, in support of Spring Bazaar, 11 a.m to 2 p.m.
Must use Deployment Care Card and register by March 5 in person with CER.
- 12-16 MAR** --Terra Nova Testing, Schweinfurt Elementary, 3-5 grades.
- 13 MAR** --“Putting Your Best Foot Forward,” professional development class, Leighton ACSC. Call 350-7103 or 0931-889-7103 for more information.
- 16 MAR** --Luck o’ the Irish Bingo, Leighton Community Activies Center, 6 p.m.
--All DOL facilities will close for annual training. Affected civilian-servicing offices to include: Vehicle Registration, Driver’s Testing
- 17 MAR** --St. Patrick’s Day party, Leighton Community Activies Center, 4:30 p.m. Free admission.
- 20 MAR** --Women’s History Celebration Luncheon, Conn Club, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Schweinfurt. guest speaker Carol Haager. RSVP by March 19 to Deborah Lawson 354-6955 or Bonnie Cornelison 354-6279.
- 21 MAR** --V.A benefits briefing, Ledward Theater, 8 a.m. to noon. Call 354-6019 for more information.
- 22 MAR** --Computer 101 basic skills class, Schweinfurt ACSC, 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. Bring your passport. Call 350-635 or 0931-889-6305 for more information.
- 31 MAR** --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.



Middle school celebrates black history

Story and photos by Sandra Wilson

Since 1926, Americans have been celebrating black history annually, starting with “Negro History Week” and emerging later into “Black History Month.”

On Feb. 23, faculty, staff, and students of Schweinfurt Middle School joined in this annual celebration. For an hour, the audience heard narratives, saw reenactments, sang spiritual hymns, and learned of the milestones in black history.

“We’re celebrating freedom from all those years of being enslaved,” said Devante Cunningham, eighth-grader from Schweinfurt Middle School.

The students reenacted scenes of history from life in Africa to the arrival in America. In one drama, students were wrapped in chains, and in another they were sold at an auction.

But as the program went on, victory revealed itself through the pivotal steps of key historical figures: Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., just to name a few.

Highlighting the reviews in history were performances by the dance team, the step team, and the Underground Boyz from Würzburg

American High School.

Tiffany Wilson, sixth-grade language arts teacher and step team advisor, explained how festivities would be similar for her back home.

“If I was at home with my family, we would be singing and dancing, and to bring it together as a big celebration like this is amazing,” Wilson said.

The SMS choir sang spiritual songs, and the, “I have a dream...” speech was delivered by Xavier Hancock.

“(The celebration) is a reminder of where we, black people, came from,” Wilson said.

And the celebration continues as strides are made. The music plays, and we hear the words of James Weldon Johnson’s black national anthem:

*Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.*



Xavier Hancock delivered Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I have a dream...” speech as part of the SMS Black History Month celebration.



Schweinfurt Middle School students on the step team did a dance about the freedom train at the school’s celebration Friday.



A mission of hope

Iraqi Army, U.S. Soldiers aid western Baghdad school

By 1st Lt. Stewart Whitson

BAGHDAD — Long before the sun has risen, infantry Soldiers from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry Regiment of the Minnesota Army National Guard, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, pull into the gates of an Iraqi Army compound.

As the morning prayers sound from a nearby mosque, Soldiers are briefed by U.S. and Iraqi leaders with the help of an interpreter. The mission this morning will be different from their usual combat security patrols conducted by the 3rd Platoon "Outlaws."

Today they will not seek to destroy the enemy but rather to help the less fortunate.

The patrol moves along with their Iraqi counterparts, deep into the heart of an area often fraught with terror. Winding through a maze of old run-down two story buildings, they see tangled clumps of wire strung from one structure to the next and trash strewn about the ground. Stray dogs dart back and forth across the street as Iraqi men and women make their way through a crowded market place.

Amidst all the filth and sewage lies a school. It is this school where the patrol's mission is to take place. While the area is dirty and filthy outside of the school, inside there is something else: hope.

Upon arrival, the U.S. and Iraqi troops begin their work. The patrol is greeted with



1st Lt. Stewart Whitson and Iraqi Army Lt. Muhammed pose with students from a western Baghdad elementary school during a delivery of supplies. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Vang Yang, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry Regiment)

the smiles of hundreds of students as they anxiously watch from their classroom windows. The looks on the faces of the school children are inspiring, as the Iraqi soldiers unload the new items for their school: five new chalk boards, 200 packs of school supplies and more than 200 pairs of shoes.

The Iraqi soldiers distribute the gifts while the children take turns singing songs for the U.S. troops. They smile and they laugh, and they beg the Soldiers to take pictures of them and show them the images on their digital cameras. Local Iraqi men from the neighborhood discuss security concerns with 1st Lt. Muhammad, the Iraqi patrol

leader for the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army.

"Conducting this mission with [the Americans] gives us a great opportunity to improve the image of the Iraqi Army, while at the same time discovering the concerns of the people," 1st Lt. Muhammad said while handing a small Iraqi girl a new pair of shoes.

"Having the opportunity to work with the Iraqi Army has been very rewarding. There seems to be a keen awareness by both U.S. and the I.A. leadership that the only way to win this war is to win it together," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Larson.

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Army that we can get our voice heard," she said.

While many issues are expected to be addressed and resolved at the local level, a few will be passed up the chain of command to the Installation Management Command and Department of the Army conferences, scheduled for later this year.

"We'll take what we've got, distill it down and execute," Haager said, referring to the issues that he expects to pass up the chain to those higher headquarters' conferences.

"Your challenge is to create an issue that is attainable," said Christine Carruthers, the AFAP conference organizer, as she gave instructions to the delegates at the conference opening. Many peo-



ple throughout the chain of the command and the military support the AFAP process, Carruthers said.

"You can have a true impact on our Army," Haager said.

Haager will employ a steering committee to evaluate which issues can be handled within his command.

Some of the issues that were brought up included passport, housing and medical services.