



Schweinfurt Dispatch

Serving the Military Community of Schweinfurt

Sept. 20, 2007



Fallen Soldiers remembered

By Mark Heeter

Two Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment were honored in a memorial service at the Ledward Chapel today.

Sgt. Edward L. Brooks, 25, died Aug. 29 in Ramadi, Iraq, of wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device. Sgt. Kevin A. Gilbertson, 24, died Aug. 31 in Landstuhl, of wounds sustained in the same attack, which struck them as they conducted security and observation operations.

“Sgt. Brooks and Sgt. Gilbertson were the type of Soldiers every commander dreamed of



Brooks

servicing with,” said Lt. Col. Miciotto Johnson, Task Force Steel Tiger commander, in remarks that Capt. Thomas McMurtrie conveyed to the standing-room-only crowd today.

“They will be remembered as friends, as fathers, and as husbands,” Johnson said, adding that he hoped they would above all be remembered as Soldiers.

Gilbertson, a native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, joined the Army in 2001 and was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, before being transferred to Schweinfurt upon the deactivation of 2-63 AR.

“I heard he was coming to Schweinfurt and I thought, man, here comes trouble, but I was happy,” said Sgt. William Fellows of Gilbertson, whom he had met when the two were battle buddies in basic training.

“Gil always had my back at everything we did and I had his,” Fellows said in remarks that Spc. James Swafford relayed here at the ceremony. He recalled his memories with his old battle buddy and knew he was a “family guy.”

Capt. Ian Lauer, the Company C commander, recalled wrestling in the day room with Gilbertson the night before the attack: “an event similar to a pit bull fighting a squirrel,” he said, through McMurtrie, to the chuckles of the attendees.



Gilbertson

“When hope was lost for me that night, I pulled the commander’s ace in the hole and ordered my Soldiers to come to my aid. I still say I won that fight,” he quipped.

Brooks, from Dayton, Ohio, spent nearly all his seven years in the Army in Schweinfurt and was a prior recipient of the Purple Heart Medal.

See Fallen, Page 4

Dagger Brigade welcomes first wave of troops

Below, a formation of Soldiers with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team walks through a smoky mist upon returning from Iraq at a welcome-home ceremony in Finney Fitness Center Saturday. Right, Spc. Chris Clingerman, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment gets a welcome-home squeeze from wife, Tiffany. (Photos by Mark Heeter) **More welcome home photos on page 4.**





News Briefs

Yellow Ribbon Room reopens

The Yellow Ribbon Room (YRR) renovations are complete! Effective Tuesday, the community YRR is back in business with a new feel, a new look, and plenty of reasons to stop by and check out the offerings. Surf the net or hold an FRG meeting, whatever your needs, the YRR is here for you on Ledward Barracks in building 230. Call 354-6089 for more information.

Football announcer needed

The Wuerzburg High School football team needs your help. Volunteer announcers are needed for this season's three home games Sept. 29, and Oct. 12 and 19. Interested parties should contact Damon McGibboney, School Liaison Officer, at 354-6090 or 354-6057.

Oktoberfest transportation

Join MWR for a free bus ride to Oktoberfest in Munich on Sept. 22 or 29. Bus departs Wuerzburg at 7:30 a.m. and Schweinfurt Volksfestplatz at 8 a.m. Return trip will depart from Munich at 10 p.m. the same day. For more information, or to sign up, call 350-6305 or 0931-889-6305.

Register to volunteer

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any military community, and now it's even easier to become one. A new volunteer system is now in place and anyone wishing to volunteer can register online at www.myarmylifetoo.com. Volunteering is an excellent way to get experience, meet members of the community, and contribute to the quality of life here in our garrison.

Need volunteers in your agency? Contact volunteer coordinator Jennifer Litchfield at 354-6933 or by email at Jennifer.Litchfield@eur.army.mil.

Fittest Man/Woman

Who is the Fittest Man and Fittest Woman in Schweinfurt? Find out if it is you at Finney Fitness Center Mon-Wed from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The challenge features six stations. Contest is open to US ID card holders. There is no cost to participate. Sign up in person at Finney Fitness Center in advance.

Wuerzburg SHIP reopens

The Wuerzburg Self Help Issue Point will reopen Monday. The location will operate Mondays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed for lunch from 1 to 2 p.m.

Bulk trash pick-up

Bulk Trash will be picked up Tuesday in Askren Manor, Yorktown Village and

leased housing only. Place bulk trash items by your trash collection point prior to 7 a.m. Tuesday. Do not put items out earlier than Monday. Regular trash, organic waste and recyclable items will not be collected. Questions? Call 354-6201.

AFN radio



Reminder: AFN radio broadcasts on AM 1143 in the Schweinfurt area. The AM frequency is strongest out of Wuerzburg, so the station broadcasts all its live programming on that frequency, according to the AFN Franconia web site. The same music and programming that is available to some other communities on the FM band is available at AM 1143 in Schweinfurt.

Smooth PCS move

Attend Leighton Army Community Services (ACS) "Smooth Move Seminar" tomorrow from 9 to 11 a.m. Get tips on packing, shipping, moving with pets, and more. For information call 350-7103.

Immigration briefing

The USAG Schweinfurt will host a Homeland Security USCIS assistance briefing Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Ledward Theater for all ID card holders.

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
Miranda McLean
Roger Teel

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.



- 24 SEPT --“Spouse Battlemind Training” ACS reunion briefing, 6-7:30 p.m., Ledward ACS.
- 25 SEPT --Understanding VA home loans, 9-10 a.m. at Ledward ACS, 1-2 p.m. at Leighton ACS.
--Couples’ Communication, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Leighton ACS. Call 350-7103.
- 26 SEPT --Kitchen Passport, South American cooking, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Ledward Library.
- 27 SEPT --SCSC Oktoberfest dinner at the Schiesshaus at 5 p.m. Cost 10 euro. RSVP by Sept. 22 at scscsvp@googlemail.com.
--Reintegration seminar for FRG leaders, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Family Life Center. 354-6135.
- 28 SEPT --B.O.S.S. Meet & Greet kick-off 5 p.m. at Ramon’s Sports Bar. Call 354-6051 for more info.
--Holiday Greetings recordings, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., in front of the PX on Ledward.
- 29 SEPT --MWR Family Friendly Trip to Oktoberfest, free transportation. Call to sign up 350-6305.
- 29-30 SEPT --Schweinfurt Commissary Case Lot sale, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- 1 OCT --Wuerzburg vehicle registration reopens, M, W, F from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
--Recycling center hours expand at Askren, Conn, and Ledward.
- 3 OCT --German holiday: Unification Day, German concessionaires on post will be closed.
- 4 OCT --SAEDA brief, 10-11 a.m. for Local National employees, 11 a.m. to noon for U.S. employees, Ledward Theater.
- 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, federal holiday.
- 9 OCT --Community Update Forum, 6-8 p.m., Schweinfurt Elementary School gym.
- 10 OCT --Community Update Forum, 6-8 p.m., Leighton Community Activities Center.
- 12 OCT --Final Rising Star performance, 7 p.m. at Abrams Entertainment Center.
--“Wee can do it” success series, scrapbooking, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., Leighton CDC/SAS.
- 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.
- 26 OCT --Harvesting Family Memories, ACS brief, 6 to 8 p.m., Yellow Ribbon Room. Call 354-6933.
- 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.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



Suicide prevention is your business

By Mark Heeter

Eleven out of 100,000 might be the kind of odds you could bet against. Unless it was your brother. Or wife. Or uncle. Or child.

According to the Center for Disease Control, that was roughly the national suicide rate in 2003 and has remained relatively steady since. And according to a fact sheet from the Army's suicide prevention program, the Army's rate was higher than that during calendar year 2006, when it spiked to more than 17 per 100,000 Soldiers.

Last week was national suicide prevention week, and the Army has implemented an aggressive program to address one key factor: hopelessness.

"That's the key – when someone starts to think there is no hope, that's it, I'm going to feel like this forever, and the only way out is to commit suicide. And that it will be a relief to the emotional pain I'm feeling," said Gerry Warner, USAG Schweinfurt alcohol and drug control officer, who is spearheading the effort to write a policy on crisis intervention.

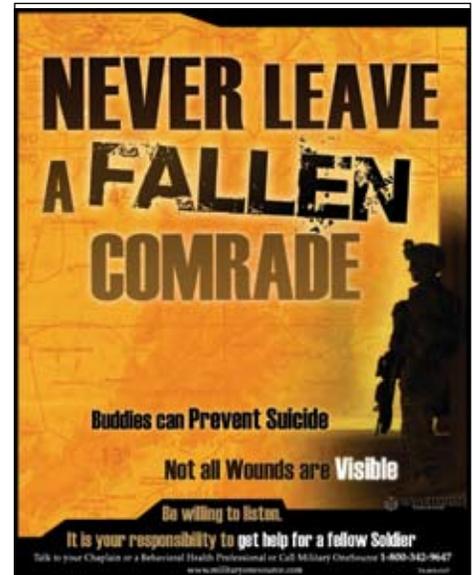
"Suicide prevention is everyone's job,

especially leaders," said Angela Hunter, the Schweinfurt health promotion coordinator, who is joining Warner and a host of other leaders to tackle suicide.

"We need to make sure that we pay careful attention to those key risk indicators that can lead to suicide," Hunter said, citing depression, isolation, and excessive alcohol abuse. Education is taking center stage across the Army said Hunter, who did not say with certainty that the operational tempo is responsible for increased suicide in the Army.

"More attention is being brought to the fact that we need to properly educate and train the community on those signs and what to look for and on how to combat certain indicators," she said. From chaplains to the health care staff to Army Community Service, the Army is attacking the problem from several different angles, she said.

"Everybody does play a part in suicide prevention. The biggest piece is the education. Knowing resources and who is here to help," Hunter said. "We do a pretty good job of training the Soldiers and the leaders," Warner said, but



she added that educating the broader community is a top priority.

For more information about suicide prevention, Warner suggests a call to the unit ministry teams or chaplains; mental health at 354-6231 or 09721-96-6231; social work services at 354-6276 or 09721-96-6276; or the Army Substance Abuse Program at 354-1710 or 09721-96-1710.



Welcome home!

Left, Staff Sgt. Kevin Corriera, 630th Military Police Company, enjoys a tender moment with his daughter, Isabella, 3, upon his return from a 15-month deployment yesterday at the Finney Fitness Center. Below, members of the 38th Personnel Service Battalion listen to a speaker during the ceremony marking their return from Iraq to the Schweinfurt community Friday.



FALLEN, From Page 1

"If I could describe him to you in two words it would be selfless service. Anyone who knew him would say that he went above the normal person to help anyone who needed anything," said Spc. Michael Grace, in remarks that Swafford conveyed here today.

"He didn't need stripes to be considered a leader; he was born to lead," Grace said.

"I know he was very excited about being promoted and becoming a leader of men," said 2nd Lt. Tom Nagelmeyer, in remarks presented by Sgt. Michael Ayrelan.

Brooks was already consid-

ered a leader by the men with whom he served Nagelmeyer said.

"I know other Soldiers in the platoon looked to him for guidance and leadership," he said.

"These brave warriors died a warrior's death. Sacrifices to be sure, but to be a Soldier is to sacrifice for a greater cause than one's self-pursuits," Lauer said in his final farewell.

Gilbertson is survived by his wife, Nina; sons, Nicholas and Timothy; mother, Keeley Peters; and father, Don Gilbertson.

Brooks is survived by his wife, Ivana; daughter, Shantique; son, Shaquan; mother, Sterling Brooks; and father, Edward Smith.



Cav kids get their spurs on during event

Courtesy photos

Seventy-two children rode in to earn their spurs at the Kids' Spur Ride on Conn Barracks Sept. 8. Sponsored by the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, it gave the Sky Soldiers' kids a chance to earn the coveted cavalry spurs. The ride included obstacle and hand grenade courses, physical training, camouflage, tug-of-war, sand-bag relays, paint ball, and a weapons simulator.

Clockwise from right, Kristen Kenworthy tries the tire obstacle; a tug-of-war team goes for the gusto; Frederick Kips ducks his way through the low crawl; and Nate O'Lear tries on a bit of camouflage.



Holiday greeting recordings slated for next week

By Mark Heeter

A team from the Army & Air Force Hometown News Holiday Greetings program will record greetings in front of the Main Exchange on Ledward Barracks Sept. 28 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This is an opportunity for Soldiers, airmen, civilians and their families from throughout Schweinfurt and Wuerzburg to record a holiday greeting message that will be played during an affiliate news broadcast back home in the United States, or its territories and possessions, during the holiday season.

Soldiers who are not deployed should accompany their families, in uniform, when possible. Spouses and children of deployed Soldiers are welcome to record greetings.

When recording, customers will be told to give their name,



location, whom they are greeting, and the holiday message itself.

For more information about the program, call the USAG Schweinfurt public affairs office at 354-1600 or 09721-96-1600.



Reunion training gets Families ready

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

“Reunion is sometimes worse than deployment. It’s more of an emotional rollercoaster for some,” said Patricia Lamson, mobilization and deployment readiness program manager and teacher of the Spouse Battlemind Training.

Knowing what to expect when your Soldier comes home can help make reunions smoother and adjustments to family life easier.

Army Community Services (ACS) offers classes until mid-October on how to handle these changes when your deployed spouse returns home after a long absence. Classes include Happiness After the Homecoming, Spouse Battlemind Training, and Reunion and Children.

“It touched on things that I hadn’t thought about,” said Sunna Rebolledo, family member of 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, about the Spouse Battlemind Training.

The classes address things like the healthy balance of time between friends and spouse and how to communicate personal deployment stories to each other.

“It’s important that everyone has the

opportunity to share their deployment experience when they feel comfortable—including the kids,” said Lamson.

According to Lamson, patience and understanding is essential in family reunions. Spouses at home have had to run their households while Soldiers have had to be in charge of their guns, gear, and circumstances downrange.

“Both have high levels of control,” said Lamson, and bringing the two together can be a challenge.

Adjusting to family roles can be difficult as well.

Because of their primary audiences for the last 15 months, “Soldiers can talk to family like Soldiers and spouses can talk to Soldiers like kids,” said Lamson. Resuming roles in the family takes time.

Along with redefining family roles, respecting the sacrifices each person has made is essential. And everyone, Lamson said, should stay away from the game of, “my day was worse than your day.”



Patricia Lamson, mobilization and deployment readiness program manager at Army Community Services (ACS), teaches spouses what to expect when Soldiers come home in the Reunion and Children class last Thursday. Join the Spouse Battlemind Training Monday from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at ACS. Classes are currently scheduled until mid-October. Call 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933 for more information.

The ACS classes also address the importance of watching for signs of stress and how to recognize when outside help is needed for any member of the family.

Overall, becoming educated on what to expect from your Soldier upon arriving home is key. Through these classes, ACS hopes to help strengthen spouses, increase resiliency, and make that initial hug and kiss at the welcome home ceremony last.

ACS names August volunteers

At the September USAG Schweinfurt town hall meeting, Jennifer Litchfield, installation volunteer program manager, joined Lt. Col. Anthony Haager, USAG Schweinfurt commander, in congratulating the following individuals, who were named volunteers of the month for August:

- DeAndra Brand, individual unit
- Simonette Appleton, agency volunteer
- Spc. Christopher Haggerty, active duty
- Spc. Tameka Edwards, active duty
- Pfc. Nancy Santos, active duty
- Pvt. Alma Borunda, active duty
- Pvt. Stephen Ziegenfuss, active duty
- Pfc. Stephanie Hernandez, active duty
- Sun Taylor, family member
- Chantel Brooks, youth



Ahmad AliNur and Christine Leota stretch their imaginations through sketching during the Youth & Teens Can Do It, Too! Success Series “Young Artist” class Sept. 12. This was the first of a series of Army Community Services activities to take place through the month of December designed for 12 - 18 year olds. Join the next event for a night of teen karaoke Sept. 28 at the Abrams Center 7 - 9 p.m. (Photo by Sandra Wilson)