



## Honoring a Vanguard Soldier

**Story and memorial photo by Sandra Wilson**

The USAG Schweinfurt community gathered yesterday morning for a memorial ceremony in honor of Spc. Christopher T. Neiberger, 22, of



**Neiberger**

Gainesville, Fla., who died Aug. 6 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered from an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 1<sup>st</sup>

Infantry Division.

“He was a great soldier,” said Staff Sgt. Luis Castro on behalf of the Charlie Rock Company Commander Capt. David Diaz. “He took orders and executed them to the best of his ability, very rarely complaining.”

But only those who worked with him directly knew what made him such a unique individual, Diaz said.

“He was like a little brother to all of us,” he said.

Diaz recalled a time when he worked with Neiberger on his “flat feet” so that he could get into a proper fighting stance. Diaz instructed him to walk on his toes at all times, and after a while, Diaz noticed that Neiberger’s balance was greatly improved.

“He had a certain unexplainable glow to him,” said Pfc. Avi Michael Fishman, a former comrade, whose remarks were read by Pfc. Timothy Spencer.

Neiberger and Fishman

talked about how they’d feel about dying while serving in Iraq. Fishman remembers Neiberger saying that he would be okay with it because he “lived a good life.”

“Spc. Neiberger made a difference and he still does... Soldiers like [him] make a team complete with selfless service and dedication to mission accomplishment,” said Capt. Rickey Torres from the remarks given by Battalion Commander Lt. Col. George Glaze at the memorial ceremony downrange.

Task Force Guardian Commander Lt. Col. Robert Whittle described how he was known to his family as the king of one-liners. Neiberger was also an Eagle Scout, and he loved to travel and write short stories. He was able experience some of that traveling when he went on numerous mission trips



**Silvia Turpin, Family member of 9th Engineer Battalion, signs the guest book at the memorial ceremony for Spc. Christopher Neiberger in Schweinfurt Aug. 22.**

before joining the army.

“You could count on him to make the best of all situations,” said Brigade Chaplain (Col.) James Brown.

“It is true that he had a sense of humor, but there was more to him than humor, there was a rare wisdom from which all of us can benefit and learn... Such a person is truly one of [God’s] rare treasures,” he said.

Neiberger is survived by parents Richard and Mary Neiberger, his sister Ami Neiberger-Miller, and his brothers Eric and Robert.

## EUCOM Commander brings news, rains praise

**Story and photo by Kimberly Gearhart**

Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, and Commander, U.S. European Command Gen. Bantz J. Craddock and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Farley spent an hour yesterday answering questions, sharing information, and heaping praise on the Soldiers, Family members, and civilians in the Schweinfurt military community.

“I can’t tell you much that you don’t know about the global war on terrorism. You live it everyday,” he said.

Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Farley, traveling with Craddock, echoed that sentiment, noting that his own son is enlisted

and has been through two deployments. Farley noted that it is different seeing deployments from the side of a Family member rather than a Soldier.

“I understand that on a personal level,” he said.

But the reason for their visit, Farley explained, was to be the community’s “voice back into the big system.”

“If there’s really a burr under your saddle, we need to hear about it,” Craddock agreed.

The ensuing questions covered issues ranging from the lack of available doctors



**Gen. Bantz J. Craddock, left, addresses audience questions with Command Sgt. Major Mark Farley as part of a special forum August 22 on Conn Barracks.**

**See CRADDOCK page 6**



## News Briefs

### Bulk trash pick up

The next bulk trash pick up for Askren Manor, Yorktown Village and leased housing only will be on Tues., Aug. 28. All residents must ensure that bulk trash items are placed outside by their trash collection point prior to 7 a.m. on Aug. 28. Do not put items out earlier than Aug. 27. Bulk trash is large items that normally do not fit into regular trash containers. Any questions please call the SORT Coordinator: Brad Posey at 354-6201 or 0162-2709403.

### PAO office contract

We have a non-personal service contracting opportunity for a Writer/Editor at the Public Affairs Office, USAG Schweinfurt with a ceiling price of \$32,000.00. We anticipate a performance period of Sept. 1, 2007 through Aug. 31, 2008. Contact the RCO Franconia for a copy of the solicitation packet, which shall be used for submission. Completed packets will be accepted up until September 5, 2007, 4 p.m. For more information contact Peter Schenk, 469-9403 or 0951-300-9403.

### Back-to-school driving reminder

Remember to slow down to walking speed in front of the schools. Passing a stopped bus on post is prohibited.

### Kindergarten readiness

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.

### Voice your opinion

To enhance the quality of services and fulfill the needs of the community, the USAG Schweinfurt will host the next AAFES/Commissary Forum on Tuesday, Aug. 28 at 10 a.m. in the Garrison Commander's Conference Room, building 206, first floor. Representatives from the PX, commissary, food court, theater, shoppette and military clothing and sales will be available to answer questions and address issues. Forum is open to the community.

### Volunteer coaches needed

Wuerzburg High School is in need of volunteer coaches for golf, tennis, football and cross country. Those interested must undergo a background check before consideration. For more information, please call Mr. Archie Tucker or Mr. Walt Seely at 350-7230 or 0931-889-7230.

### Parent sports education

Want to learn about a sport? Come to Youth Sports & Fitness' sport education classes at Ledward gym designed especially for parents. Soccer 101 is 5 to 6 p.m., and flag football 101 is 6 to 7 p.m., both on Aug. 27 and 28. Baseball 101 runs from 5 to 6 p.m. on Aug. 29 and 30. For more info call 354-6822 or 09721-96-6822.



### Construction project

A construction project to repair the Ledward perimeter wall will last from Aug. 20, 2007 to April 30, 2008. Construction fences erected will maintain physical security at all times during construction.

### Clinic closed tomorrow

The clinic will be closed Friday, Aug. 24. In case of an emergency, Leopoldina emergency room is open 24 hours. You will be diagnosed, treated, admitted if need be and directed to follow up with you PCM. Phone 09721-7200.

## 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](mailto: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.



- 25 AUG** --Coaches certification clinic at Ledward Gym, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call for more info 354-6822.
- 27 AUG** --First day of school for Schweinfurt Elementary and Middle Schools and Wuerzburg Elementary and High Schools
  - Beginning German class begins, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Mon., Weds., Fri. Call 354-6933.
  - ADHD support group, 10 a.m. to noon, ACS classroom, building 242. Call for info 354-6933.
- 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.
  - AAFES and DeCA open community forum, 10 a.m., Garrison Conference Room, 1st Floor, Building 206 on Ledward Barracks.
- 31 AUG** --Autism support group, 10 a.m. to noon, ACS classroom, building 242. Call for info 354-6933.
  - USO 3-overnight trips to St. Petersburg or Pearls of Tuscany, return Sept. 3. Call 354-6711.
- 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.
  - Love and Logic 7-week course begins, from 9 to 11 a.m. SAS building, Askren Manor. Call 354-6933 to register.
  - Kitchen Passport, Russian cooking, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Ledward Library.
- 8 SEPT** --MWR Family Friendly Trip to Strasbourg, France, free transportation. Call for more info. or to sign up 350-6305. Tourist passport required.
  - Parent's Day Out, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sign-ups begin August 27. Register in person at Central Registration in The Commons on Ledward Barracks or the Leighton CDC.
- 8-10 SEPT** --Medieval festival in downtown Schweinfurt next to the east historical city walls, Saturday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday 4 p.m. to 11 p.m.
- 9 SEPT** --Protestant Sunday School and Catholic CRE kick off, Ledward Chapel.
  - Chapel community welcome picnic, 2 p.m., Kessler Field.
- 13 SEPT** --ACS Lunch Bunch, Schwimm Club, Italian restaurant, meet at Ledward ACS, 11 a.m.
- 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.
- 22 SEPT** --MWR Family Friendly Trip to Oktoberfest, free transportation. Call to sign up 350-6305.
- 22-23 SEPT** --Volksmarch at Machine Hall in Kutzberg starting at 2 p.m. Saturday & 7 a.m. Sunday.
- 26 SEPT** --Kitchen Passport, German cooking, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Ledward Library.
- 29 SEPT** --MWR Family Friendly Trip to Oktoberfest, free transportation. Call to sign up 350-6305.
- 3 OCT** --German holiday: Unification Day, German concessionaires on post will be closed.

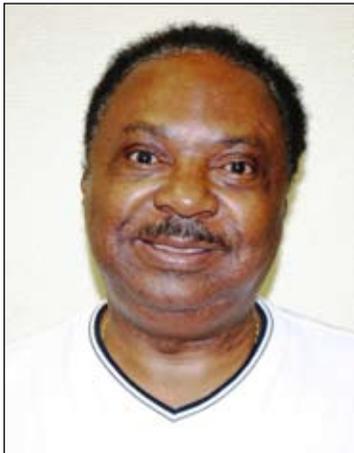
**Community 6 week outlook calendar**



# Carpenter plans to build on tradition

## Meet the new principal at Schweinfurt Middle School

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson



The start of a new school year is upon us, and with it a new principal for Schweinfurt Middle School (SMS) has arrived.

Dr. George Carpenter has been an educator for more than 35 years, and he brings high expectations to the table for teachers, students and parents alike.

“I want to maintain the great things that the school is doing and to work with teachers, parents and students

to expand and improve in areas where we may need to do so,” said Carpenter.

“I expect teachers to have high expectations for all students and to accept responsibility for assisting all students in meeting their educational goals,” he said.

Carpenter himself was greatly affected by teachers he had in middle and high school in Montgomery, Ala. They served as his role models and sparked a desire in him to become involved in education himself, but administrative work was not what Carpenter had in mind at the beginning of his career. In fact, he said he avoided it for a long time because he liked to work more directly with students as a counselor.

Working with students is also a parental responsibility, he says. Research shows that when parents are involved in the school in any way, student achievement goes up. And because of that, Carpenter highly encourages parents to do their part, “[and] not just come when they need information or when they want to complain,” but to become involved in the Parent-Teacher-Student Association, school advisory committee, or volunteer.

“The key is to become involved in their children’s education,” he said.

This year, North Central Association will be visiting SMS, as it does every five years, to certify that it meets all official requirements of academic excellence, curriculum, and facilities.

“There have been tremendous changes in the education arena. One being the amount of testing— we want to be assured that our students are progressing. ...I’m looking forward to a validation from an outside team that SMS is on the right track,” said Carpenter.

For Carpenter, “the right track” means providing educational experiences for students that will help them to be productive citizens in the future and life-long learners, not dropping the urge to learn just because high school or college is over.

“Every once in a while you get to see a student who has... graduated... and there’s some satisfaction in knowing that your efforts and your teamwork have been attributed to them being successful,” said Carpenter.

Carpenter, who recently came from the much larger Landstuhl area Department of Defense Dependents Schools system, says he is looking forward to working in such a close-knit community.

“It’s good to be here. I’ve heard a lot of good things about this school and community... So far, I’ve been impressed,” he said.

## Boy Scouts camp out

Boy Scout leader Rickey Torres [left] shows scouts [from left] Joshua Glaze, Florian Savine, Titus Choi, John Morgan how to cook their own meal directly in the campfire. Boy Scout Troop 55 from Schweinfurt camped out for 7 days and 6 nights at Camp Freedom in August. They learned the skills of canoeing, camping, wilderness survival, environmental sciences, forestry, pioneering, leatherwork, and more.





# Back to school tips from the Safety Office

*The following health and safety excerpts are from the American Academy of Pediatrics.*

## MAKING THE FIRST DAY EASIER

- Remind your child that she is not the only student who is a bit uneasy about the first day of school. Teachers know that students are anxious and will make an extra effort to make sure everyone feels as comfortable as possible.
- Point out the positive aspects of starting school: It will be fun. She'll see old friends and meet new ones. Refresh her memory about previous years, when she may have returned home after the first day with high spirits because she had a good time.
- Find another child in the neighborhood with whom your youngster can walk to school or ride with on the bus.
- If you feel it is appropriate, drive your child (or walk with her) to school and pick her up on the first day.

## BACKPACK SAFETY

- Choose a backpack with wide, padded shoulder straps and a padded back.
- Pack light. Organize the backpack to use all of its compartments. Pack heavier items closest to the center of the back. The backpack should never weigh more than 10 to 20 percent of the student's body weight.
- Always use both shoulder straps. Slings a backpack over one shoulder can strain muscles. Wearing a backpack on one shoulder may also increase curvature of the spine.
- Consider a rolling backpack. This type of backpack may be a good choice for students who must tote a heavy load. Remember that rolling backpacks still must be carried up stairs, and they may be difficult to roll in snow.

## TRAVELING TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Review the basic rules with your youngster:

### School Bus

- If your child's school bus has lap/shoulder seat belts, make sure your child uses one at all times when in the bus. If your child's school bus does not have lap/shoulder belts, encourage the school to buy or lease buses with lap/shoulder belts.
- Wait for the bus to stop before approaching it from the curb.

- Do not move around on the bus.
- Check for on-coming traffic before crossing.
- Always remain in clear view of the bus driver.

### Car

- All passengers should wear a seat belt and/or an age- and size-appropriate car safety seat or booster seat.
- Your child should ride in a car safety seat with a harness as long as possible and then ride in a belt-positioning booster seat. Your child is ready for a booster seat when she has reached the top weight or height allowed for her seat, her shoulders are above the top harness slots, or her ears have reached the top of the seat.
- Your child should ride in a belt-positioning booster seat until the vehicle's seat belt fits properly (usually at about 4' 9" in height and between 8 to 12 years of age). This means the shoulder belt lies across the middle of the chest and shoulder, not the neck or throat; the lap belt is low and snug across the thighs, not the stomach; and the child is tall enough to sit against the vehicle seat back with her legs bent at the knees and feet hanging down.
- All children under 13 years of age should ride in the rear seat of vehicles.

### Bike

- Always wear a bicycle helmet, no matter how short or long the ride.
- Ride on the right, in the same direction as auto traffic.
- Use appropriate hand signals.
- Respect traffic lights and stop signs.
- Wear bright-colored clothing to increase visibility.
- Know the rules <http://www.aap.org/family/bicycle.htm>.

### Walking to School

- Make sure your child's walk to a school is a safe route with well-trained adult crossing guards at every intersection.
- Be realistic about your child's pedestrian skills. Because small children are impulsive and less cautious around traffic, carefully consider whether or not your child is ready to walk to school without adult supervision.
- Bright-colored clothing will make your child more visible to drivers.



# Deputy garrison commander welcomes teachers



Deputy Garrison Commander Justin Mitchell visited Schweinfurt Middle School Wednesday morning to welcome back the teachers from their summer break. He updated them on the summer's happenings and spoke of the approaching homecoming of the Soldiers downrange this fall.

"Our community has suffered tremendous loss, as most of you know," he said, as he touched on how pivotal the teachers have been in helping the community cope.

Expressing his gratitude for the teachers in the Schweinfurt community, he confirmed the importance of such a job in the lives of all Americans.

"Somebody that you folks taught will be running the country," Mitchell said, smiling. "Thank you for what you do." (Photo by Sandra Wilson)

## CRADDOCK

Continued from page 1

to the problems Stop Loss/Stop Movements cause with the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS.

"DEERS is a 20<sup>th</sup> century anachronism," for a 21<sup>st</sup> century Army, Craddock said, calling it a "security blanket" that everyone is comfortable with but that needs to change to suit the ever-changing needs of America's fighting forces and their Families.

Farley addressed concerns about dwell time and how Army schools such as Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course and Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course may be shortened to 6 weeks so that Soldiers may spend more time at home rather than spending their dwell time training.

That training, however, is what separates and elevates American fighting forces above and beyond other NATO forces, Craddock said.

Strong communities and strong, innovative rear-detachment forces, such as Task Force Guardian (TFG), are the other keys to maintaining a strong force. Craddock praised TFG as "probably the model for the Army in the future" and a "pioneering" effort in rear-detachment organization.

On the subject of communities, Craddock was hit with questions regarding the status of Schweinfurt and its absence from the list of enduring European military installations.

"We may not have enough forces here" to accomplish the tasks that Craddock needs the Army to achieve. "Some of the assumptions made in 2003 (when the current plan was approved) were wrong."

The need for more Soldiers in Europe prompted Craddock to request that an additional two Army brigades remain in Europe. If the Secretary of Defense approves that request, then two more communities would probably have to be added to the enduring list.

"We're going to make a hard case," Craddock said, noting, however, that if the request is approved, there is no guarantee which communities U.S. Army, Europe would select.

In the meantime, the Schweinfurt community will continue to support its deployed Soldiers, in 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, the Airborne CAV, and other individually deployed elements, as well as the Families back home.

"You are serving just as much as your Soldier spouses," Farley said, and for that service, for those sacrifices, both Farley and Craddock tendered a heartfelt "Thank you."

## Fire chief talks shop



Kimberly Gearhart

Schweinfurt Fire Chief Hans Wolf, right, discusses fire fighting and hazardous material containment techniques with members of the Geldersheim volunteer fire department Friday. The Geldersheim Feuerwehr escorted a group of children aged 7-13 on a tour of the American fire fighting facility as part of the community's summer fun youth program but couldn't resist talking a little shop with the Schweinfurt Fire and Rescue team.