



Hospital lowers flag in final retreat

By Anne Torphy

Bavaria MEDDAC Public Affairs

The American flag was lowered for the last time at Wuerzburg Army Hospital Oct. 19, during a somber retreat ceremony.

Col. Theresa M. Schneider, commander, U.S. Army Medical Department Activity, Bavaria (BMEDDAC), presided over the ceremony, which marked the end of 62 years of U.S. Army presence in the hospital.

The facility closure is part of the Army Medical Command's transformation and realignment to decentralize health care. Currently, BMEDDAC consists of health clinics on Leighton Barracks and seven outlying health clinics that support 40,000 Soldiers and Family members in Bavaria.

The hospital served the American community since the end of World War II. Located on the Schottenanger, a 600-year-old former Scottish monastery, plans for the hospital began in 1935 to support the needs of a growing German army.

The hospital's ground-breaking

ceremony was Dec. 24, 1935. The 300-bed facility opened Nov. 11, 1937.

The retreat ceremony was attended by many past and present employees, physician providers and Soldiers. Former Lord Mayor of Wuerzburg, Juergen Weber, represented the local community.

Ingrid Purucker, an employee in the property book section of the hospital for 42 years, was invited to take part in the cake-cutting ceremony with the commander and Weber.

Wuerzburg Health Clinic is now located in building 24 on Leighton Barracks with the Dental Clinic. The clinic houses the Tricare service center, medical records, pharmacy, lab services and wellness clinic.

The continuing mission of BMEDDAC is to provide prompt, competent, and caring health care to beneficiaries while supporting the Global War on Terrorism and Army Transformation.

For information about appointments or services, call 350-2317/3854 or 0931-889-2317/3854.



Bavarian MEDDAC Soldiers gather in formation in front of the Wuerzburg Hospital for a Final Retreat Ceremony Oct. 19. (Photo by Staff Sgt. John Queen)

SFAC ready to support healing Soldiers

By Mark Heeter

A lounge-type setting with telephones, computers, access to a kitchen, plenty of information, and staff ready to assist, the SFAC is the place to be for Soldiers assigned to the Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) and their Families.

Welcome to the Schweinfurt Soldier Family Assistance Center (SFAC), co-located with Army Community Service in building 242 on Ledward Barracks.

"That's truly what this environment is set up to do. In between appointments, depending on limitations, this

is here to support the healing Soldier in whatever capacity," said Hal Snyder, USAG Schweinfurt ACS officer.

"SFAC is going to play a very vital role, I believe, in the success of this (the WTU). ACS are my go-to guys. If I can't solve a problem, I know anybody can go to ACS, and they'll help," said Staff Sgt. Joshua Kennedy, squad leader for the Schweinfurt WTU.

The SFAC and WTU were established early last month throughout the Army as tools to help Soldiers transition either into another unit, through their rehabilitation or out of the Army. While the WTU is under

the operational control of the medical activity, the SFAC is under the day-to-day care of the ACS.

When Soldiers or Family members come to the SFAC, they will likely be greeted and assisted by DonElla Thomas, a familiar face to the community. She recently separated from active duty with the Dagger Brigade and now is the acting SFAC specialist.

"It keeps them from running back and forth between Ledward and Conn," Thomas said, noting that some Soldiers' appointments have to happen in a precise order.

Thomas' experience as a

personnel specialist came in handy immediately upon her assumption of the position, as she helped a Soldier with an incorrect Date Eligible for Return from Overseas (DEROS).

"I was able to call over and get his DEROS adjusted, so now he is able to go coordinate for his follow-on assignment," she said.

"It's just getting them to the right organization so they can fix it and just get them in the right direction," Thomas said.

In addition to all the amenities in the SFAC, plans

SFAC, see page 4



News Briefs

Halloween happenings

Trick-or-Treat hours for the USAG Schweinfurt are Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. On Leighton Barracks, Trunk-or-Treat will be held in the PX parking lot from 5 to 7 p.m., with prizes awarded for the three best-decorated vehicles.

The USAG Schweinfurt Chaplain's office will host a Harvest Festival Wednesday, Halloween, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in the Teen Center gym next to the Chapel. The festival is a fun Christian alternative to Trick-or-Treating. Dress up, but nothing scary, and come join the fun.

MWR will host an adult Halloween party at the Leighton Community Activities Center beginning at 7 p.m. Prizes for the best, worst, and sexiest costume will be awarded, and Rocky Horror will play on the big screen.

Bulk trash, leaf removal

Bulk trash—items too large to transport in a car—will be collected in Askren Manor, Yorktown Village, and all Schweinfurt-area government leased housing Tuesday. Put items out at your regular trash collection point no sooner than Monday evening, but before 7 a.m. Tuesday morning. Leaf removal will be conducted in Askren Manor, Yorktown Village, Lincoln Village, and Skyline housing areas Mondays, except holidays. On all other installations, collection will be every other week.

Saturday Halloween party

The Wuerzburg Bavarian Medical Command will host an open community Halloween party Saturday at the Leighton Community Activities Center from 3 to 6 p.m. The party will feature all sorts of hands-on activities for the kids, including cupcake & pumpkin decorating, mask-making and prizes for costumes. Kid-friendly food will be provided free of charge. For more information, call 0931-889-7722.

SCSC logo contest

The Schweinfurt Community Spouses Club (SCSC) is looking for a new club logo and is seeking designs in an open competition with a \$100 prize for the winning entry. Membership not required.

Some suggested themes for the new identity include a local landmark or a logo based on the letter-forms of the organization name (SCSC). Each participant may submit a maximum of three designs as JPEG, 300 DPI, 1200 x 1200 pixels and in color (RGB) and black & white. DEADLINE to submit designs is midnight November 15. Please forward all designs and contact details via email to: scscmail@googlemail.com.

Fall Back

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday morning at 2 a.m. Be sure to turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

Flu shots available

Flu shots will be offered at the Schweinfurt Health Clinic Tuesdays-Thursdays from 2 to 5:30 p.m. on a walk-in basis. Those seeking a flu shot should bring their shot records with them to the basement clinic.

In Wuerzburg, flu shots will be offered Nov. 2 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Wuerzburg Health Clinic for DODDS employees, CYS, CDC, Commissary, PX employees, and Nov. 3 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for Family members. Another date may be added if needed.

Women's conference

The Ledward Chapel gospel service will host a special conference for all the women of the community Friday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The focus will be reintegration and renewing bonds of love and friendship. Child care will be provided free of charge. Call 354-1570 for more information.

Family Frankenstein

Join MWR for a free bus ride this fall and winter to various popular locations. Sign up to go to Frankenstein Castle in Darmstadt on Oct. 27 for Families or Oct. 31 for adults. Transportation is free. Admission tickets must be purchased in advance for 22 euro each at SATO Travel office. To sign up, or for more information, call 350-6305 or 0931-889-6305.

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
Roger Teel
Miranda McLean

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.



- 29 OCT --Deadline for crafters to join SES Craft Show. Applications available at SES.
- 30 OCT --Couples' Communication, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Ledward ACS. Call 354-6933 to register.
- 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.
--Scratchtrack, R&B concert, 7 p.m., Kessler Fitness Center. Presented by AFNE.
- 3 NOV --MWR Family Friendly Trip to the Black Forest, free transportation. Call to sign up 350-6305.
- 4 NOV --Crafts Studio trip to Lauterbach Crafters' Market, leaves 9 a.m. Call 354-6903 to register.
- 5-9 NOV --SNAPS orientation program, Ledward ACS. Call 354-6933 for times.
- 6 NOV --Rock Climbing class, 1 p.m., Outdoor Recreation, part of the 'I can do it' series. Call 354-6933.
- 8 NOV --Shop Safety class at Auto Skills Center, Conn Barracks, 1 p.m., 353-8224.
- 10 NOV --Super Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., no cost CYS care program for registered children.
- 12 NOV --Unit level basketball registration deadline, open to military ID card holders. Call 353-8234.
- 14 NOV --College fair at Wuerzburg American High School, 4-6 p.m. For more info. call 350-7230.
- 15 NOV --B.O.S.S. "This One's for You" program, 3-7 p.m., Finney Fitness Center. Call 354-6270.
- 17 NOV --MWR Family Friendly Trip to Wartburg Castle, free transportation. Call 350-6305 to sign up.
--ACS Nutcracker Tea for ages 3 to 12, Schweinfurt Abrams Center. Call 354-6933 to reserve.
--Wuerzburg Transition Showcase, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., in front of Leighton Theater. 350-6305.
--"I can do it" paintball lessons, ID card holders 12 and older. Call 354-6933 for details.
--Worlds Apart Fun Run/Walk in support of 173rd Airborne Brigade, 9 a.m., Kessler Fitness.
- 20 NOV --ACS paintball class, 1 p.m., Conn paintball field. Call ACS for more information at 354-6933.
- 22 NOV --Thanksgiving Dinner, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Leighton CAC. Call 350-6305 for reservations.
- 22-25 NOV --Ski/Snowboarding trip to Austria with Outdoor Recreation. Call 353-8080 to register.
- 23-25 NOV --International Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fri. & Sat., 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sun. Finney Fitness.
- 25 NOV --Nutcracker Suite children's trip, 1 p.m., meet at Leighton ACS for transportation to Wuerzburg Nutcracker Suite matinee performance.
- 30 NOV --B.O.S.S Meet & Greet, Route 66 Party, begins at 5 p.m., Conn Keller Bar. 354-6270 for info.
--Kid Friendly Trip to Wuerzburg Christ Kindl Markt, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., meet at Leighton ACS.
- 1 DEC --MWR Family Friendly Trip to Bad Wimpfen Christmas Market, free trans. Call 350-6305.
- 7 DEC --Leighton Barracks Christmas tree lighting, 4 p.m., Victory Garden.
- 16 DEC --Ledward Barracks Christmas tree lighting, 4 p.m., Andrus Garden.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



'Sing Noel' with chapel Christmas program

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Santa, shopping, presents, tree, and *Sing Noel*.

Put *Sing Noel*, the children's Christmas program, on your holiday to-do list, because practice has already begun. More kids and adults are needed for the production which will be performed at Ledward chapel Dec. 16 at 6 p.m.

Participants in the program range in age from kindergarten to sixth-grade and the roles of shepherds, wise men, and angels still need to be filled.

Setting aside all the commercial aspects of the holiday, the program is geared toward remembering Christ's birth.

"When children do a play like this, it really sets it in their

hearts about what Christmas is about," said Gloria Kessler, volunteer program director.

Adult volunteers are needed for running the lights and monitoring the children during practices which are held every Tuesday from 5 to 6 p.m. in the Ledward sanctuary.

The program, adapted by Kessler, was originally performed by teenagers in Vicenza, Italy. After some modifications, the play is now written for younger actors.

The play follows children in final rehearsal for a Christmas play. Some are excited and others, pushed by their parents to participate, take some time to warm up to the idea.

Kessler is aware that the storyline may coincide with the actual attitudes of the children



From left, Janelle Bautista, Dani Cross, and Hannah Kessler listen to Director Gloria Kessler's instructions as they practice for the upcoming *Sing Noel* children's Christmas program Dec. 16.

on stage. Although so far, it seems like all the children love being at the practices.

"It's not just putting on a play; it's reaching [the kids] for

the real message of Christmas," she said.

Contact 01515-234-9021 or email gjkess@yahoo.com for more information.



Take back the night

Christina Vargas, Family member of 299th Forward Support Battalion, and numerous other community members gathered at Schweinfurt commissary Oct. 17 for Take Back the Night, a candle-lit walk against domestic abuse.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month, and Take Back the Night is one of the many ways people around the nation increase awareness and show their support for the abused and programs aimed at stopping the abuse. (Photos by Morissa Booker)

SFAC

are in the works for a second SFAC lounge to be set up in the Personnel Transition Assistance Center in building 40 on Conn Barracks, according to John McIntyre, USAG Schweinfurt Director of Human Resources.

Installation Management Command-Europe has already conducted a site assistance visit and liked what they saw.

"Their feedback was that they were very pleased with our operation," McIntyre said.

Although the SFAC is designed as a priority service center for WTU Soldiers, Snyder emphasized that ACS continues to offer the same services and programs to the entire community that have been the hallmark of ACS, particularly here in the Schweinfurt military community.

"I think the biggest challenge is not losing sight of the fact that we continue to support all of our Soldiers and Families with similar services. The SFAC is designed as a location to prioritize service for the WTU Soldiers," he said.



69th ADA Soldiers feel the sting of training

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. John Queen
69th ADA Public Affairs Office

During a typical field training exercise, Air Defense Soldiers in a Patriot missile unit would conduct a series of maneuvers called march-order and emplacement.

Once in place and set up, they switch into “air battle” mode. Recently the 69th Air Defense Artillery broadened this training.

“The purpose... was to assess our Soldiers and incorporate situational training into an air and missile defense (AMD) exercise,” said Maj. Philip Labasi, the operations officer for the brigade.

“Our Soldiers are really good at what they do and they understand their AMD tasks,” Labasi said. “They know their core competencies – there’s no doubt about that.”

However, many ADA Soldiers were unfamiliar with other aspects of the battlefield, so this time the training was geared to catch the Soldiers off guard and see how they react.

“We wanted to put our Air Defense Soldiers outside

of their comfort zone and introduce them to intense and stressful situations,” Labasi said. “Situations that are more realistic and relevant to what’s going down range in Afghanistan and Iraq.”

In order to do that, a situational training lane was used which added a whole new dimension to the training that was, at times, painfully educational.

Each battery was subjected to four separate battle situations. To complicate matters, both the friendly and opposing forces fired sim-munitions—small paintball-type ammunition that feels like a bee sting—at each other.

“It didn’t hurt as much as I thought it would,” said Pfc. Keith Davis, a light wheel mechanic attached, Bravo Battery, 5th Battalion, 7th ADA.

Davis was hit while trying to take cover during one of the ambushes. He and his convoy learned a number of lessons during the exercise.

“We had a plan and we were moving so quickly – We were too focused on security and we didn’t pay attention to the civilians,” Davis said



As a battle rages around Alpha Battery, 5-7 ADA’s disabled convoy, Spc. Jonathan Young provides cover fire for two Soldiers evacuating a wounded comrade.

Mixed among the friendly civilians were insurgents, who, when the opportunity arose, began shooting at Davis and the other 5-7 ADA Soldiers with sporadic rifle fire.

Although many of the Soldiers that went through the situational training lane said it was extremely tough and exhausting, they also relished the training.

“I thought this was good training,” said Pvt. Nacee Cowell, a welder assigned to

5-7 ADA’s Service Battery. “This was like the real stuff. I haven’t had training like this since basic.”

As the exercise progressed each battery would relay the lessons it learned to the next. The result in some aspects mirrored the early stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Brigade, the Army’s only forward deployed Patriot missile unit, is scheduled to relocate to Fort Hood, Texas during the summer of 2008.



Parents learn infant CPR

SPC Jennifer Labarre of 299th Forward Support Battalion (FSB) practices giving mouth-to-mouth in the American Red Cross infant CPR class in Schweinfurt Oct. 13.

This particular class was offered to parents of new babies, those expecting babies, or teenagers who baby-sit. As part of the Dagger Brigade Hooah Baby program, parents of all babies born during the deployment received a gift certificate from the Red Cross in order to take the infant CPR class for only \$5 (regular price is \$40 for materials). Battalions can schedule classes with the Red Cross for the coupons to be used, call 354-1760. (Photo by Wendy Sledd)



Final Ms. Wuerzburg named: Here HE is?

Story and photo by Roger Teel

In high school life, the tradition of homecoming is perhaps the most cherished and spirited of all.

At Wuerzburg American High School, homecoming weekend was no different, save that it was most likely the last for the school. But that is no reason to stifle school spirit.

The junior class-sponsored Spaghetti Dinner and Ms. Wuerzburg Pageant kicked off homecoming Oct. 18. An annual fund-raiser, the pageant features school athletes taking a turn on the catwalk, in drag.

The event has been a staple for many years, "as long as anyone can remember," claimed the event program text.

Decked out in borrowed

evening wear, ten athletes performed short skits to showcase their talent (or lack of it). Some lip-synched songs, but most danced, or attempted to. Edwin Cadelinia, perhaps the most talented dancer, had the all-woman panel of judges blushing at his antics.

Contestants were then interviewed by onstage announcers Kaylah Cousin and Courtney Edwards, and also by 2006 Ms. Wuerzburg runner-up, Ms. Erica Flom. Feigning feminism, contestants were catty during their interviews, and the audience of 300 howled at their responses.

Judges Nancy Clayton, Elizabeth Walker and Joanne Edwards narrowed their lists before naming Ms. Wuerzburg and two runners up.

"Since there won't be a

school here next year, this year's Ms. Wuerzburg will wear the crown FOREVER!" announcer Edwards explained before the coronation.

With that, senior AJ Miles was crowned Ms. Wuerzburg 2007.

Also in the running were: Cadelinia, Sebastian Casteneda, Lewis M'bote, Bryant Milliard, Daniel Osgood, Bryant Pingo, Patrick Smith, Daniel Soto-Perez and Ben Snyder.



Ms. Wuerzburg contestant Danny Osgood has his eye lashes feathered backstage by sophomore Jessie Brown. Osgood didn't win, but looked stunning in his evening wear. This year marked the final Ms. Wuerzburg pageant.

WTU helps Soldiers move forward, move on

By Mark Heeter

Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) means something special to about three dozen Schweinfurt Soldiers who have been assigned to the unit since it was created early last month.

"It's a sense of pride to be in this unit. To be able to take care of those Soldiers that went and fought for our country and have been injured and fought for our freedom," said Sgt. 1st Class Salvatore Hrycyh, Schweinfurt WTU platoon sergeant.

While most of the Soldiers assigned to the WTU have been wounded in combat, eligible Soldiers include those who are under the evaluation of a medical board, who spend a significant amount of time at appointments, and who have to have at least six months of complex care, according to Hrycyh and local WTU squad leader, Staff Sgt. Joshua Kennedy.

"It's for different injuries, different illnesses," Hrycyh said. One thing remains the same for all the assigned Soldiers,

though, according to Kennedy.

"A lot of Soldiers don't want to feel different. They don't want that, 'Oh, let me get the door for you just because you got a cane. They want to feel just like me, like you. When I deal with my Soldiers, they're a man," he said.

The primary function of the WTU is to ensure that Soldiers are making and completing their appointments, and to ensure that they have the means to get there, Kennedy said.

"We can facilitate that for them like, for example, if a Soldier needs to stay overnight in Landstuhl, we get a hold of the Fisher House for them or we make sure they know how to get hold of them. We take care of the Families there, too, to make sure the support is there," he said.

Although Soldiers' commanders have the final say on determining who they release to become part of the WTU, doctors and other medical professionals can offer their recommendations based on each case, Kennedy said.

"If a commander feels the unit can take care of him, then by all means, they can do that," he said, noting that the units then maintain the responsibility of getting the Soldier through the necessary appointments.

Hrycyh and Kennedy encourage their Soldiers to remain active and are looking for the community to reach out to their Soldiers with the opportunity to contribute in any of a number of ways.

"I'd encourage the community to come forward with meaningful jobs for these Soldiers," Kennedy said.

"Get involved with these Soldiers. Come talk to them. See if there's anything you can do to help them. A lot of the Soldiers are looking for things to do. They don't want to be just sitting there. They're looking. 'How can we help? What can we do?'" Hrycyh said.

For more information about the WTU or to inquire about helping with the unit, stop at the Schweinfurt Health Clinic; Hrycyh and Kennedy have a basement office.



Schweinfurt welcomes home Soldiers



The past week has been full of tears of joy for many in the Schweinfurt community as Soldiers from Task Force 1-26 and the 2-111th Postal returned from deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Wives, girlfriends, parents, and entire families toting banners and flags anxiously checked arrival manifests for confirmation of the one piece of news they had waited over a year to hear: their Soldiers had come home.

Task Force 1-26, which constituted the largest portion of this week's returning Soldiers, is the first large group from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division to return from their 15-month tour in Iraq. The main body of the "Dagger" Brigade will return over the next several weeks. (Photos by Mark Heeter)



Vanguard commander applauds security volunteers

By Sgt. 1st Class Robert Timmons
4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division-Baghdad battalion commander working directly with Iraqi Security Volunteers Oct. 19 cited their efforts as one of the major factors in the economic revival of the Saydiyah, a southern neighborhood in the Iraqi capital.

Lt. Col. George Glaze, commander of the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, is responsible for the security of a large part of West Rashid which includes Saydiyah and Radwiniyah.

"When we put (the volunteers) in, there were six shops along the main commercial street. Within two days there were 24 shops, and two days later there were 54. It seemed that every two days the number of shops doubled," said he said. "To me that is an

indicator of security."

Glaze said that with the added security, the economy has improved.

"The economy began to immediately return once the ISVs were in sector," the Vanguard's commander said.

Currently there are more than 300 Iraqis in the volunteer force with 30 of those being Shia, and more being hired everyday.

The volunteers are a cornerstone of Coalition and Iraqi efforts to bring stability to Baghdad by empowering citizens to protect their neighborhoods, which enables security forces to focus on rebuilding infrastructure.

Glaze said he felt prejudices have caused some to resort to violence out of fear. The only way to combat it was through communication.

Recently, Glaze was able to break the fast of Ramadan with local leaders and

the ISV outside the re-opened Saydiyah Mosque. The Sunni mosque had been closed for eight months but "immediately opened," when the ISV was started in the town.

Glaze and Lt. Col. Jabar, the Iraqi Army commander in Saydiyah, sat down recently with members of the volunteer force, Iraqi Security Forces and Imams to talk about ways to move forward in area.

The Vanguard commander said the level of violence since citizens began volunteering has dropped drastically in his area of operations.

"The numbers of murders, direct fires, and IEDs have reduced significantly. It went from everyday to every other day to once a week," he said, adding that he believes the current strategy of getting the volunteers and ISF working together is the main reason for the revival of Saydiyah.